



**MANDELA'S DEATH
STIRS WORLDWIDE
SENSE OF LOSS**

Page 2



**US JOBLESS RATE
FALLS TO LOWEST
IN FIVE YEARS**

Page 7

Aruba TODAY

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In this photo shot with a fisheye lens, Jim Cline removes the snow from Christmas trees for shoppers following a winter storm Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, in Indianapolis. Several inches of snow fell on central and southern Indiana, making driving treacherous and leading to at least two fatal crashes.

(AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

Icy Storm Slams Southwest, Barrels Towards East Coast

NOMAAN MERCHANT

DALLAS (AP) — Freezing rain and stinging winds slammed the Southwest Friday and made a strangely blank landscape out of normally sun-drenched North Texas: mostly empty highways covered in

a sometimes impassable frost, closed schools and businesses, and millions of residents hunkered down for icy conditions expected to last through the weekend. Earlier this week, many in Texas were basking in spring-like tempera-

tures that hit the 80s. But by Thursday, Texas was facing the same wintry blast that has slammed much of the U.S., bringing frigid temperatures, ice and snow. The weather forced the cancellation of Sunday's Dallas Marathon, which

was expected to draw 25,000 runners, some of whom had trained for months. A quarter of a million customers in North Texas were left without power, and many businesses told employees to stay home to avoid the slick roads.

Rob Yates, 44, of the Dallas suburb of Rowlett, had trained for four months to participate in the half-marathon Sunday — his first time competing at that distance.

Continued on page 4

Mandela's death stirs sense of loss around the world

Lydia Polgreen

Alan Cowell

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JOHANNESBURG - When Cliff Rosen awoke Friday to the news that Nelson Mandela had died, he went out to the sunflowers growing in his garden and cut down the tallest one.

"A special flower for a special man," said Rosen, a 40-year-old urban farmer, as he wired the towering, 6-foot stalk to the fence surrounding the spontaneous memorial that has sprung up just outside the home where Mandela died Thursday night. "I chose this flower because he towered over us all," Rosen said. "Today it feels like the world got a little bit smaller."

In the government's first announcement of a schedule for ceremonies that are likely to draw vast numbers of world dignitaries and less exalted mourners, President Jacob Zuma said Friday that the former president's body would lie in state from Dec. 11 to 13 after a memorial at a huge World Cup soccer stadium in Soweto on Dec. 10. He will be buried in his childhood village, Qunu, in the Eastern Cape region, on Dec. 15 after a state funeral, Zuma said.

The White House said in a statement that President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama would visit South Africa next week "to participate in memorial events." The wording left unclear whether the state funeral was included.

The state funeral will fall on the eve of Dec. 16, one of the most important public holidays in the South African political calendar with heavy historical resonance for blacks and whites. Officially known since 1994 as the Day of Reconciliation, it also marks the founding in 1961 of the Umkhonto we Sizwe, or Spear of the Nation, guerrilla army that opposed white rule, and a much earlier victory by Afrikaner forces over a Zulu army in 1838 known as the Battle of Blood River.

At a service in Cape Town, Archbishop Desmond Tutu,

himself a towering figure in the struggle against apartheid that defined much of Mandela's life, expressed the hopes and fears of many of his compatriots when he told congregants at St. George's Anglican Cathedral early Friday: "Let us give him the gift of a South Africa united, one." As flags flew at half-staff across South Africa, a sense of loss, blended with memories of inspiration, spread from Obama in Washington to members of the British

citizens and in forging a new South Africa." President Vladimir Putin of Russia said Mandela was "committed to the end of his days to the ideals of humanism and justice." Speaking in Cape Town after his service in the cathedral, Tutu asked rhetorically whether Mandela was "the exception to prove the rule." "I say no, emphatically," he said, adding that Mandela "embodied our hopes and dreams, symbolized our

hailed him as a liberator from imperialism, even as dissidents embraced him as a symbol of resistance against repression.

In Syria, President Bashar Assad, accused by the political opposition of heinous crimes in a nearly three-year-old civil war, said Mandela was "an inspiration in the values of love and human brotherhood." In South Africa, people of all races gathered at Mandela's home, laying wreaths, singing freedom

what Nelson Mandela stood for, and we need to honor that in our lives every day."

For those who knew him best, the knowledge that he has gone slowly seeped in.

"I never thought, knowing him for close to 40 years, that I would ever speak of him in the past tense," said Tokyo Sexwale, a senior member of the African National Congress who served prison time on Robben Island alongside Mandela.



A group of mourners stand around floral tributes laid in memory of former president Nelson Mandela's home in Johannesburg, South Africa, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, after he passed away Thursday night following a long illness.

(AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)

ish royal family and on to those who saw Mandela as an exemplar of a broader struggle.

"A giant among men has passed away," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India said. "This is as much India's loss as South Africa's." As public figures competed for superlatives to describe Mandela, Prime Minister David Cameron declared in London: "A great light has gone out in the world." Pope Francis praised "the steadfast commitment shown by Nelson Mandela in promoting the human dignity of all the na-

enormous potential." Helen Zille, the leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance, said that South Africans owed their sense of belonging to a single family to Mandela. "That is his legacy," she said. "It is why there is an unparalleled outpouring of national grief at his passing."

The tone of the tributes reflected seemingly universal sentiments crossing racial, national, religious and political lines. In the United States, Republicans and Democrats alike rushed to embrace his legacy. In China, the government

songs, whispering prayers and performing the shuffling toyi-toyi dance in his honor. People came together in a way that seems increasingly rare in a nation confronting the everyday worries of a struggling economy, incessant allegations of government corruption and a sinking sense that a nation born two decades ago into such promise is slipping into despair.

"It is one of those days when everyone is united again," said Reginald Hoskins, who brought his two young children to Mandela's house Friday morning. "That is

"The passing of an icon like Nelson Mandela signifies the end of an era."

Britons often claim a particular bond among the many Europeans who supported South Africa's struggle against apartheid, leading efforts to impose an international boycott on South African sports figures and gathering frequently to protest outside the country's high commission, or embassy, in Trafalgar Square in London. A line formed outside the building Friday as scores of people waited to sign a condolence book. □

Biden: Asia's growth 'a chance to bend history'

JOSH LEDERMAN

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

Seeking to reassure wary allies, Vice President Joe Biden on Friday pushed back against those who question America's commitment to Asia, which has at times been obscured by an array of distractions at home and abroad.

But Biden warned that without trust and common ground rules, the potential for great prosperity and security in fast-growing Asia may be undermined by mounting tensions in the region.

"This is one of those inflection points in history," Biden said in a speech at an elite South Korean university. "We actually have a chance — a chance — to bend history just slightly."

Biden, nearing the end of a weeklong trip through Asia, outlined a broad vision for a U.S.-Asia bond in which cooperation co-exists with intense competition. Tracing the arc of South Korea's evolution since the end of the Korean War, Biden held up this northeast Asian nation as a model for others seeking to emerge from chaos and authoritarianism.

To that end, Biden called on Asian countries to open their economies, drop trade barriers, create opportunities for women and cooperate on environmental protection. He called for Asia to adopt a single set of rules to govern relations between nations in a neighborhood where many of the most powerful nations are bitterly feuding. "With this growth have come new tensions, above and beyond the enduring threats that we face," Biden said. "The rules and norms that help advance security and prosperity are still evolving to keep pace with the remarkable changes of the 21st century."

Such threats became the backdrop for Biden's stops in South Korea, Japan and China, where the vice president found himself playing mediator for pressing international disputes in

a departure from the softer diplomacy typical of vice presidential visits.

South Korea and Japan, the two closest U.S. allies in the region, are engaged in a painful dispute driven by historical enmities dating nearly a century. And there are new, worrying signs from North Korea. Biden vowed the world would not tolerate Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, adding the U.S. was willing to resume multiparty talks with the North if it agrees to full denuclearization.

In the choppy waters separating South Korea, China and Japan, a turbulent dispute over Beijing's claim to airspace over contested islands hung over Biden's Asia trip. Seizing an opportunity to implore Asian nations to stop provoking one another, Biden said he had stressed to Chinese President Xi Jinping that the U.S. military plans to ignore China's demand that planes flying through the airspace first notify Beijing.

"It will have no effect on American operations. Just ask my general," Biden said. "None. Zero."

The vice president's words, like his trip to Asia, sought to put a fine point on the Obama administration's intention to realign America's foreign-policy focus toward Asia. The U.S. sees the potential for massive

against its neighbors.

"If we're going to be honest about it, China is not the only country being assertive right now," Jonathan Pollack, an Asia policy expert at the non-partisan Brookings Institution, said

sion-making, more space. That's all well and good — until something you don't want to happen, does." Plans to increase U.S. influence, military presence and diplomatic outreach in Asia have been complicat-



South Korean President Park Geun-hye, right, shakes hands with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden before their meeting at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

growth here but worries that authoritarian China will fill the power void by asserting itself more aggressively

ahead of Biden's speech. "All the states involved are trying to buy themselves more latitude in their deci-

ed by Iran, Syria and Egypt, which have commandeered much of the foreign policy bandwidth. □

Hagel tour showcases US commitment to Gulf



U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks to military service members aboard the USS Ponce in Manama, Bahrain, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. Standing on the massive deck of the Navy's USS Ponce, Hagel said the U.S. is entering the new nuclear pact with Iran "very clear eyed" and it remains to be seen whether Tehran is serious about keeping its development peaceful.

(AP Photo by Mark Wilson)

Natalia C. BALDOR
Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Standing on the massive deck of the Navy's USS Ponce, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the

United States is entering the new nuclear pact with Iran "very clear eyed" and it remains to be seen whether Tehran is serious about keeping its nuclear development peaceful.

Hagel's tour Friday of the Ponce gave him a platform to showcase America's vow that its military commitment to the region remains strong and will not ebb as a result of the Iranian deal.

And it also shined a spotlight on one of the Navy's new warship programs that allows the U.S. to position a staging base for commando units or other troops anywhere in the region without treading on any other nation's soil.

The next six months present a very wise opportunity "to see if the Iranians are serious about following through with commitments they have said they would make" about not developing their nuclear capabilities, Hagel told a crowd of Navy sailors and civilian mariners on the Ponce, which was docked at the U.S. base here.

But at the same time, he said, "We are not going to change any of our military posture in this area or any part of the world during that six-month period. We will keep the same kind of strong assets, the same exercises, the same partnerships, the same focus on our strategic interests as we did before we entered into this six month period."

His message, delivered in Iran's backyard, is meant to reassure allies in the region that the nuclear pact with Iran will not diminish U.S. weapons sales or the military's efforts to work and train with other nations.

His visit to Bahrain comes less than two weeks after international leaders reached a deal with Iran that would freeze parts of its nuclear program in exchange for some relief from crippling Western economic sanctions. □

Icy Storm Slams Southwest, Barrels Towards East Coast

Continued from Front

His wife and three children were going to attend the race to volunteer and cheer him on, he said.



Wayne Neally runs a snowblower to clear his driveway while Deanne Ferguson does her clearing the old-fashioned way with a large snow scoop, right, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.

(AP Photo/Duluth News Tribune, Bob King)

Now, "I'll probably be catching up on some work," Yates said, laughing. Yates spent Friday at home with his children, who were outside pulling off icicles and wishing more snow had fallen. But Yates,

originally from near Manchester, England, said he stayed inside with his wife. "It's kind of unusual weather for Dallas, so they're just having fun with it," Yates said. "Me and my wife — adults are not particularly

impressed with it."

Friday's storm stretched from South Texas, where anxious residents bagged outdoor plants to protect them from the cold, through the Midwest and Ohio Valley and up into northern New England and the Canadian Maritimes.

In North Texas, agencies and residents haven't forgotten the disastrous week before the Super Bowl two years ago, when an inadequate response to a snowstorm crippled the region and left visitors stranded on impassable highways.

People in the Dallas area raided grocery shelves and home improvement stores Thursday in advance of what one store manager joked was the Black Friday of bad weather — "Ice Friday." Most people appeared to heed warnings Friday to stay inside.

Bundled up against the elements, Matthew Johnson was one of the few people braving the cold Friday.

"We're going to walk the dog and have fun outside, I guess," said Johnson, standing near his home in the Dallas suburb of Richardson.

The weather led to more than 1,000 cancellations at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, one of the nation's busiest airports and a key hub for Fort Worth-based American Airlines.

Many travelers were stuck waiting — and hoping for another flight. Those arriving in North Texas were having trouble finding cabs as many drivers stayed home. Dallas-area light rail trains were not running.

Rosibel Gutierrez Artavia, shivering in a light sweater as she waited for a taxi, had traveled from Alajuela, Costa Rica, to suburban Fort Worth to see family. Relatives called her before she left Costa Rica to warn her to pack warm. But she got the call when she was already at the airport. □



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NY judge: Goldman Sachs silent about rogue trader

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A former Goldman Sachs trader was sentenced on Friday to nine months in prison for wire fraud by a judge who took sharp aim at both Goldman and the government, questioning why it took them so long to bring the misconduct to light.

Matthew Taylor had admitted in a guilty plea this year that he concealed an unauthorized \$8.3 billion trading position in 2007. He told Goldman within 36 hours but escaped criminal charges until this year. "Goldman was silent about Taylor's lies," U.S. District Judge William Pauley said in federal court in Manhattan.

The investment banking firm fired Taylor but didn't disclose the full extent of his misconduct, clearing the way for him to continue as a trader for Morgan Stanley for another four years, the judge said.

"So much for Goldman's concerns about the credibility of the financial markets," he said.

The judge also suggested the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan and federal regulators went after

the rogue trader years after his offense largely for publicity. He accused prosecutors of crafting an artificially low sentencing recommendation to secure a quick plea deal. "Everything about this case is sad," the judge said. "Your employer's response was sad. Your conduct was sad. The government's conduct — it's sad."

The judge said that by his own calculations of sentencing guidelines, Taylor could have received several years behind bars for making Goldman Sachs suffer a \$118 million loss. But too much time had passed for that to make sense, he added.

"Justice has to be swift to mean anything," he said.

Along with the nine-month prison term, the judge ordered the MIT graduate to complete 400 hours of community service by tutoring children from low-income families in math. A Goldman spokesman responded Friday by insisting that it had filed timely paperwork reporting that Taylor was fired for "inappropriately large proprietary futures positions in a firm trading account."



Former Goldman Sachs trader Matthew Taylor leaves Manhattan federal court in New York. Taylor was sentenced to nine months in prison for wire fraud on Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, by a Manhattan judge. Earlier in 2013, Taylor had pleaded guilty to concealing an unauthorized \$8.3 billion trading position in 2007. He admitted his wrongdoing to Goldman within 36 hours, but escaped criminal charges until this year.

(AP Photo/Louis Lanzano)

The U.S. attorney's office said in a statement it learned of Taylor's fraud in November 2012 and charged him less than five months later, in April 2013.

Taylor, 35, of West Palm Beach, Florida, has said he accumulated

and concealed the massive trading position to enhance his reputation within Goldman and secure a bigger bonus. Taylor will remain out on bail until early February, when he was ordered to begin his sentence. □



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Bloomberg's rare display of public emotion

MICHAEL BARBARO

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NEW YORK - The voice of the man behind the microphone quivered, at first imperceptibly.

Then it started to crack.

It took a few moments for the nattily dressed crowd of business titans and deputy mayors to process what they were hearing.

Until it happened again. There was no mistaking it: Michael R. Bloomberg was choking up.

Self-reflection and public emotion are dispensed as if from an eye dropper by this mayor. ("There are people," he once observed with instinctive disapproval, "who emote.") But farewells have a way of clarifying and crystallizing feelings, and on Thursday morning it was clear that, with 27 days left in his 12-year reign as the leader of New York City, Mayor Bloomberg was starting to process what it means to leave the one job he has loved above all others.

The setting was unmemo- rable (a hotel ballroom in Downtown Brooklyn) and the occasion unimportant (the mayor's final speech before the Association for a Better New York, a civic group).

But everything else about the event seemed to stand out. Bloomberg, ever the hurried man, entered at such a leisurely pace that it took him 30 minutes to make his way to the stage. As he zigzagged through a room full of old friends and colleagues, a paper cup of coffee in hand, he lingered at each table to trade stories and pose for photographs.



New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg before addressing the Association for a Better New York, Dec. 5, 2013. In his first major goodbye speech, Bloomberg summoned what he said were the quintessential New York values that animated his mayoralty, and showed a rare display of emotion when discussing the protection of religious freedom.

(Angel Franco/The New York Times)

Valediction was in the air. A young man in a blue suit approached and said he felt compelled to thank the mayor in person for a job well done. "I am really going to miss you," he said. Bloomberg thanked him. The master of ceremonies for the breakfast called it a "bittersweet day for all of us."

When it was his turn to talk, Bloomberg was drowned out by rapturous applause from a crowd that stayed on its feet for a full minute, until the mayor finally hushed it.

In his first major goodbye speech, he summoned what he said were the quintessential New York values that animated his mayoralty: a passion for the arts, an unabashed embrace of technology, a get-it-done politics that transcended party, and the zealous protection of religious and sexual free-

doms. It was then that Bloomberg became emotional. A Jew whose parents felt compelled to cloak their religious identity when they bought a home in an unwelcoming Massachusetts suburb, he recalled his unwavering support for a proposed mosque near the World Trade Center site, which much of the country angrily opposed.

"When a faith community wants to build a house of worship in a particular neighborhood," he said, "we don't tell them to look someplace else."

"We are one city," he added, "open to all, with equal rights for all."

He invoked the pantheon of Great New Yorkers who, exploiting those enduring values, used the city as a laboratory for improbable inventions and unconventional ideas that changed the world. □

China firm Huawei paid US intelligence adviser

STEPHEN BRAUN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A longtime adviser to the U.S. Director of National Intelligence has resigned after the government learned he has worked since 2010 as a paid consultant for Huawei Technologies Ltd., the Chinese technology company the U.S. has condemned as an espionage threat, The Associated Press has learned. Theodore H. Moran, a respected expert on China's international investment and professor at Georgetown University, had served since 2007 as adviser to the intelligence director's advisory panel on foreign investment in the United States. Moran also was an adviser to the National Intelligence Council, a group of 18 senior analysts and policy experts who provide U.S. spy agencies with judgments on important international issues.

Moran, who had a security clearance granting him access to sensitive materials, was forced to withdraw from those roles after Republican Rep. Frank Wolf complained in September to the intelligence director, James Clapper, that Moran's work on an international advisory council for Huawei "compromises his ability to advise your office."

"It is inconceivable how someone serving on Huawei's board would also be allowed to advise the intelligence community on foreign investments in the U.S.," Wolf wrote. A spokesman for Clapper's office confirmed Friday that Moran was no longer associated with the intelligence council but declined to answer further questions, citing the U.S. Privacy Act. Moran declined to discuss the matter with the AP. Moran's resignation also was confirmed by Wolf and two federal officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

"If he wants to make a lot of money advising Huawei, that's his prerogative," Wolf told the AP. "But he shouldn't be on a critical advisory board that provides intelligence advice on foreign investments in our country." The case highlights the ongoing fractious relationship between the U.S. government and Huawei, China's leading developer of telephone and Internet infrastructure, which has been condemned in the U.S. as a potential national security threat. Huawei has aggressively disputed this, and its chief executive, Ren Zhengfei, has said the company has decided to abandon the U.S. market.

In a policy paper distributed by Huawei, Moran wrote in May that, "targeting one or two companies on the basis of their national origins does nothing for U.S. security in a world of global supply chains." Moran criticized what he described as "a policy of discrimination and distortion that discourages valuable inward investment from overseas, while providing a precedent for highly damaging copycat practices in other countries." □



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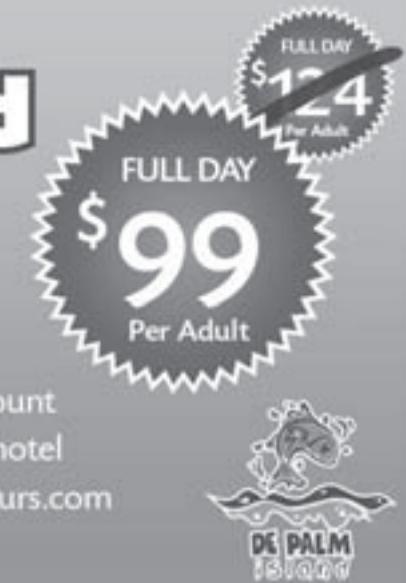
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US Financial Front:

America's jobless rate falls to lowest in 5 years



Job applicants wait to enter a career fair in New York, Dec. 4, 2013. The U.S. economy adds 203,000 jobs as unemployment falls to a 5-year low, data that increases the likelihood that the Federal Reserve will begin easing its stimulus efforts sooner, rather than later.

(Marilynn K. Yee/The New York Times)

NELSON D. SCHWARTZ
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The jobs picture brightened in November as hiring in the United States was stronger than expected and the unemployment rate fell to a 5-year low, data that increase the likelihood that the Federal Reserve will begin easing its stimulus efforts sooner rather than later.

Still, many observers cautioned that the encouraging figures from the Labor Department Friday did not necessarily mean that the central bank will act when policy-makers meet later this month.

A move early next year, they said, is more likely. While the 203,000 jump in payrolls in November was an improvement over the 158,000-a-month rate that prevailed in the summer, it

is not much better than the 198,000 level in the first nine months of 2013.

"We think the chance of tapering this month has risen, but on balance we expect the Fed to wait a bit longer,"

said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Michael Garen, senior U.S. economist at Barclays, echoed Shepherdson's view in terms of the Fed's timing. "We consider it a strong report but it's not something that would cause the Fed to move," he said.

"Our scenario is still March." While the return of hundreds of thousands of federal employees after October's government shutdown may have exaggerated the move in the unemployment rate for

November, the continuing payroll gains suggest that the economy has picked up momentum very recently.

In November, the jobless rate dropped to 7 percent.

Economists surveyed by Bloomberg before the Labor Department announcement had expected an increase of 185,000 jobs, with the unemployment rate falling by 0.1 percentage point to 7.2 percent.

"While the decline in the

rate might be overstated, there is nothing here not to like," said Gus Faucher, senior economist at PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh. "It is strong across the board."

Faucher noted that hourly earnings and the length of the typical workweek both increased slightly in November.

And employment increased in both the public and private sectors, despite continuing austerity at the federal level.

Payrolls are tracked using data gathered from employers, while the unemployment rate is based on a separate survey of households.

On Wall Street, the monthly report on the labor market is by far the most closely watched economic indicator, but the November data created more anticipation than usual, because the Federal Reserve seems poised to begin slowly easing back on its stimulus efforts. □

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Government supporters stage counter-protest in Ukraine

ANDREW E. KRAMER

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KIEV, Ukraine - Pro-government demonstrators deployed a new tactic Friday to counter protests in favor of European integration, marching through the capital, Kiev, to oppose homosexuality, which they said would accompany a greater European Union role in Ukrainian affairs.

Carrying religious icons and singing hymns, the group of about 1,000 Orthodox Christian supporters of President Viktor Yanukovych filed out of a monastery and marched to a city park.

Marchers said they favored allegiance with Russia rather than Europe because Russia more closely matches the cultural and religious heritage of Ukraine, which was once part of the Soviet Union. They intend to draw attention to what they characterize as overly liberal European social values, they said.

The protesters set off from the Kiev Pechersk Lavra, a monastery controlled by the Moscow Patriarchate,

which is subordinate to the Russian Orthodox Church and is one of three denominations of Eastern Orthodoxy in Ukraine. The Kyivan Patriarchate of Ukraine, in contrast, has supported the pro-European demonstrators and has allowed many to sleep in churches. "We are for unity with our brothers in Russia and Belarus," said Nadezhda A. Kiselyova, 60, a retiree walking in the anti-Europe march Friday, who had an Orthodox icon pinned to the front of her coat.

"We are against the spiritual expansion of the West," said another protester, Andrei A. Shyropov, a teacher. "We are against the Euro Sodom," he continued, using a phrase rhyming with and mocking the name the supporters of European integration have given to their movement, the Euromaidan, which means "Eurosquare" in Ukrainian.

Since Yanukovych declined to sign a far-reaching political and free-trade agreements with the EU on Nov. 21, angry Ukrainians have taken to the streets

and occupied government buildings, clamoring for the president's resignation.

It was unclear whether highlighting the divisive issue of homosexuality would

tors was tiny compared with the tens of thousands of pro-Europe Ukrainians who have protested almost daily for two weeks. Valentin B. Lukyanik, an organizer of the march Fri-

in parts of Ukraine, has put the spotlight on European liberalism in the context of the Ukraine crisis by broadcasting clips of a Swedish television show intended to explain bodily functions



A policeman guards the Ukrainian Parliament as supporters of Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovych stand in the background in Kiev, Ukraine, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. A leader of the protests gripping Ukraine's capital to try to force the government's resignation says the opposition is willing to talk with officials to find a way out of the crisis, but only if the police who violently dispersed demonstrators are punished.

(AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

gain traction or whether the effort to paint Europe as atheist and degenerate would matter much in a crisis that has been first and foremost about trade and political governance.

Also, the number of pro-government demonstra-

day, said the economic benefits of European trade were outweighed by "the expansion of European values that destroy the family."

In neighboring Russia, state-controlled television, which can also be viewed

to children.

After showing excerpts, the Russian host, Dmitri Kiselev, said the show explained why "early sex is the norm" in Sweden, and then concluded, "There you have European values in all their glory." □

12 nuns, missing in Syria, resurface in video

ANNE BARNARD

© 2013 New York Times

BEIRUT - Twelve nuns who vanished recently from the ancient Aramaic-speaking Syrian town of Maaloula resurfaced Friday in a video, saying that they had left with rebels to escape shelling in the area and were safe with a Christian family in a nearby rebel-held town.

The fate of the nuns has become the latest mysterious and polarizing incident in the war, with the government accusing Islamist insurgents of kidnapping them to target Christians, rebels saying they are protected guests, and even Pope Francis calling for their swift return.

What no one disputes is

that the nuns left Maaloula on Tuesday with insurgents who had just re-entered the town, which has been contested over the past several months between rebels and government forces. Until then, the nuns had been practically the only civilians left in the town, huddled in their convent, Mar Takla, retreating to rooms built deep into cliffs when shelling broke out.

But each side offers a different version of why and how they left, a debate that goes to the heart of their competing narratives of the war.

The government casts itself as a secular bulwark against Islamic extremists bent on destroying Syria's

religious diversity, while rebels - at least those who reject the radical views of foreign fighters - say they have no plans to harm Christians and that it is the government that has played on sectarian fears.

State media said the nuns had been forced to leave at gunpoint. But Abu al-Majd, the leader of a local rebel brigade made up of Aramaic-speaking Muslims - part of a diverse social fabric in the area - said the nuns had left voluntarily for the town of Yabroud because Mar Takla, which had remained intact during the initial rebel incursion, was being shelled heavily by the government. Recent footage taken by rebels showed heavy damage. □

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Egypt's police, ousted Morsi supporters clash

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian security forces fired tear gas Friday during clashes with rock-throwing supporters of the ousted Islamist president demonstrating in several districts across the country, officials said.

Meanwhile, authorities said that toppled leader Mohammed Morsi, held in a remote prison pending trial, will not receive visits from his family and lawyers after smuggling a statement through his lawyers. It said that Egypt will not see stability unless he returns to power. Security forces arrested more than 70 protesters in the most intense of Friday's clashes in southern, eastern and central neighborhoods of Cairo, a security official said. Other rallies in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria and the central city of Fayoum also descended into violence, with security forces firing volleys of tear gas to disperse Morsi's supporters rallying in city squares.

Egypt has been in turmoil since the 2011 ouster of longtime President Hosni

Mubarak. After overthrowing Morsi, security forces heavily cracked down on his supporters, killing hundreds, arresting top leaders and sending many to court on charges including incitement to violence.

Morsi, who has for the most part been held incommunicado, was seen for the first time in public when his trial opened on Nov. 4 over charges of inciting murder and violence in connection to last year's clashes in front of the presidential palace, where 10 people were killed. Since then, he was moved to Borg el-Arab prison. He received two visits from his family and lawyers.

Ministry spokesman Col. Gamal Mokhtar said that Morsi had delivered four messages "inciting violence" against the interim government during a first meeting with his lawyers on Nov. 13. "The lawyers turned to messengers carrying assignments to their followers outside," he said. Morsi made a statement through his lawyers saying



Egyptians pose with a man wearing a mask of ousted President Mohammed Morsi during a demonstration in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. Egypt's Interior Ministry says it will no longer allow visits to the country's ousted president, now held in a remote desert prison.

(AP Photo/Hamada Elrasam)

Egypt will see no stability unless he returns to power. He was overthrown by the military on July 3 after millions demonstrated calling

on him to leave office. One of Morsi's sons, Osama, posted on his official Facebook page on Thursday that his most recent re-

quest to visit his father was turned down. He says Morsi was moved from his place of detention to another undisclosed location. □

Greece:

Hundreds mark fatal police shooting

**ELENA BECATOROS
FLORENT BAJRAMI**

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Police clashed with demonstrators in central Athens on Friday as thousands attended rallies to mark the fifth anniversary of a fatal police shooting of a teenager — a killing that triggered major riots in Greek cities for three weeks.

Police said four officers were injured in the clashes on Friday, 10 people were arrested for causing public disturbances and 55 people were detained for questioning.

Several hundred youths hurled rocks and petrol bombs at police, burned two cars and set fire to piles of garbage, after about 5,000 protesters held two separate marches. Police used tear gas, pepper spray and stun grenades against the rioters.

Alexis Grigoropoulos, 15,

was killed the night of Dec. 6, 2008, when a policeman fired his gun following an argument in the center of the capital.

Within hours of the boy's death, thousands of youths took to the streets across the country. The riots that ensued were Greece's worst in decades and buildings and shops on major streets were burned and looted in the capital. The riots occurred a year before Greece was plunged into a financial crisis, and protesters at anniversary events often have opposed the government and the "troika" of bailout inspectors from the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Police remained on alert in several cities across Greece, including Athens, where more protests were expected Friday night. □



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Police block Mexico hospital, 6 may have radiation

A. GOMEZ LICON

EMILIO LOPEZ

Associated Press

PACHUCA, Mexico (AP)

— Federal police blocked access Friday to a central Mexico hospital where six people were reported to have been admitted with radiation exposure.

An official familiar with the case confirmed Mexican media reports that the six have been admitted to the general hospital in the city of Pachuca and may have been exposed to a stolen source of highly radioactive cobalt-60.

The official, who spoke Friday on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to be quoted by the media, said only one person so far was dizzy and vomiting, symptoms of severe radiation poisoning. She said two people were admitted on Thursday and four more Friday. She did not provide any other details.

It was not clear if the people under observation were also the thieves, who early Monday stole a cargo truck at gunpoint that was carrying the radioactive material in Hidalgo state, where Pachuca is located.

The federal attorney general's office, which is handling the case, could not be reached for comment on whether suspects were in custody.

The theft triggered alerts in six Mexican states and Mexico City, as well as international notifications to the U.S. and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. It raised concerns that the material could have been stolen to make a dirty bomb, a conventional explosive that disseminates radioactive material. But Mexican officials said that the thieves seemed to have targeted the cargo truck with moveable platform and crane, and likely didn't know about the dangerous cargo.

The atomic energy agency said the cobalt has an activity of 3,000 curries, or Category 1, meaning "it would probably be fatal to be close to this amount of unshielded radioactive material for a period in the range of a few minutes to an hour."

"What I was told yesterday is that there might be two people with severe radiation syndrome, but I do not have confirmation," said



A woman walks near a radiation head that was part of a radiation therapy machine, in the patio of the family who found the abandoned radiation head in a nearby field in the village of Hueypoxtla, Mexico.

(AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

Juan Eibenschutz, director general of Mexico's National Commission of Nuclear Safety and Safeguards.

Pedro Luis Noble, health minister for Hidalgo state, told Reforma newspaper that the people believed to be exposed pose no

40 kilometers (24 miles) from where it was stolen, and the container for the radioactive material was found opened. The cobalt-60 pellets were left about a kilometer (half mile) from the truck in an empty rural field, where authorities said they were a risk only to anyone who had handled them and not to anyone in Hueypoxtla, the closest town of about 4,000 people. There was no evacuation.

The material was from obsolete radiation therapy equipment at a hospital in the northern city of Tijuana and was being transported to nuclear waste facility in the state of Mexico, which borders Mexico City.

Eibenschutz said authorities continued to work on Friday at the site in Mexico state where the material was found to extract it safely. □

Haiti protest derides Dominican court ruling

EVEN SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — Hundreds of protesters gathered Friday to criticize a recent court decision in the Dominican Republic that could strip the citizenship of generations of people of Haitian descent living in the neighboring country. The crowd peaked at about 2,000 people but thinned out

during the march uphill to the Dominican Embassy to protest the decision passed two months ago by that country's court. The demonstrators urged people to boycott travel to the Dominican Republic.

Riot police set up metal barricades on a major thoroughfare that block protesters from reaching the district where the diplomatic mission is located.

The ruling has been met with sharp objection, from Caribbean leaders to the United Nations. On Friday, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights became the latest international entity to oppose the court decision, calling on the Dominican government to take urgent measures to guarantee the rights of those people affected. Advocacy groups estimate 200,000 people, many of them of Haitian descent, could lose their Dominican citizenship because of the court ruling. Dominican officials say only about 24,000 would be affected.

Haitian officials have said little about the matter. President Michel Martelly has called it a "Dominican issue" and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe posted

on Facebook that a lot "is being done to solve the problem." The lack of a robust response from the Haitian government was cited as one reason for the protest, which started out to oppose the Dominican court ruling, then turned into an anti-government demonstration. Protesters carried a white wooden coffin spray-painted with the slogan "Down with Martelly," then later burned it. Friday's march is the latest of recent protests in Haiti, many of them critical of Martelly's government. A few have turned violent, with anti-government demonstrators last week burning tires outside the U.S. Embassy as they pressed for the departure of Martelly, accusing the U.S. of interfering in Haiti's domestic politics. □



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Japan parliament approves contentious secrets law

ELAINE KURTENBACH

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's parliament approved on Friday a state secrets law that stiffens penalties for leaks by government officials and for journalists who seek such information, overriding criticism that it could be used to cover up government abuses and suppress civil liberties.

The ruling coalition forced a vote on the bill in an upper house committee on Thursday. Despite stalling tactics by opposition parties, the full upper house approved the bill on Friday by 130 to 82.

The more powerful lower house had approved the bill last week.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is seeking to increase Japan's global security role and create a more authoritarian government at home, says the law is needed to protect national security and assuage U.S. concerns over the risks of sharing strategically sensitive information with Tokyo. Critics worry the law could be used to hinder public disclosures, punish whistle-

blowers or muzzle the media since journalists could be jailed for seeking information they do not know is classified as secret.

The bill allows heads of ministries and agencies to classify 23 vaguely worded types of information related to defense, diplomacy, counterintelligence and counterterrorism, almost indefinitely.

Even some members of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party complained that the government rushed too quickly to get the bill approved before the end of the current parliamentary session.

"I think there needs to be more explanation," party member Takashi Uto said during the committee debate. "Naturally people are concerned because they don't know what will be a secret."

Most objections to the legislation were over human rights implications and over the lack of a guarantee of independent or parliamentary oversight over secrecy decisions. However, during the final debate, lawmakers also questioned how

the law might affect civilian employees doing business with government agencies. "People will be living in a society where they could be

Party lawmaker Sohei Nihi said in arguing against the bill before its passage. "Arrests, court judgments, all could be secret. This would

tracting, or even companies dealing in "dual-use" technologies and products that have military applications could be affected,



Anti-state secrets law protesters scuffle with police officers in front of the Diet building in Tokyo while upper house lawmakers vote to approve the bill late Friday night, Dec. 6, 2013. Japan's parliament has approved the state secrets law that stiffens penalties for leaks by government officials and for journalists who seek such information, overriding criticism that it could be used to cover up government abuses and suppress civil liberties. Despite stalling tactics by opposition parties, the full upper house approved the bill on Friday by 130 to 82.

(AP Photo/Kyodo News)

punished for not knowing what's secret and what's not," Japan Communist

Violate the constitution." Foreign businesses engaged in defense con-

said Lawrence Repeta, a law professor at Meiji University in Tokyo. □

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EU raids electronics companies in prices probe

AMSTERDAM (AP) — European Union antitrust regulators have raided the offices of several companies that make and sell consumer electronics and domestic appliances, in an investigation into whether they artificially boosted the prices of goods online.

The raids were carried out by the European Com-

mission, the EU's executive arm, which declined to identify the companies targeted. In a statement it said it has reason to believe they restricted online sales of their products to keep their prices high or made them unavailable at outlets that sold them cheaply.

Royal Philips NV confirmed Friday it was one of

the companies targeted. Spokesman Joost Akkermans said the company is cooperating with an "ongoing case" but it cannot comment further.

Media-Saturn-Holding GmbH, which operates the Saturn and Media Markt consumer electronics retail chains, likewise confirmed it had been involved and

is cooperating. Samsung is widely reported to also have been targeted in the raids, but company officials in Seoul could not immediately be reached to confirm that late Friday.

The Commission underlined that its investigation is at a preliminary stage and may never lead to charges, let alone a finding of guilt.

WTO trade deal makes progress in Bali

D. ARIYANTI
Associated Press

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — A possible World Trade Organization deal moved closer to approval Friday after a row over food subsidies was

put the subsidy issue on the backburner, allowing it to be taken up at a later point and opening room for consensus. The proposal also would simplify customs procedures.

The idea is that if all countries play by the same trade rules, then all countries, rich or poor, will benefit. But some critics say WTO rules may hinder countries from setting their own priorities in

"For the first time since 20 years, the WTO has proven to itself and the world that it actually provides an effective forum to negotiate multilateral trade openings," Matthias Helble, a



Activists shout slogan during a protest against the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Bali, Indonesia, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. Indonesia was hosting the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference from Dec. 3-6.

(AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim)

set aside following hours of global negotiations that went late into the night. Trade ministers had come to the four-day WTO meetings on Indonesia's resort island of Bali with little hope that a slimmed-down agreement would be reached, with India refusing to budge on a provision that could endanger subsidies for grains under a policy to feed its poor.

But a draft proposal released late Friday to be decided on by the minis-

India Trade Minister Anand Sharma said he endorses the draft proposal. "This is a decision which is historic, and it will resonate in all continents," he said. The deal could boost global trade by \$1 trillion and help revive the WTO's broader Doha Round of trade negotiations, sometimes known as the development round because of sweeping changes in regulations, taxes and subsidies that would benefit low-income countries.

environmental protection, worker rights, food security and other areas. And they say sudden reductions in import tariffs can wipe out industries, causing job losses in rich and poor countries.

The meetings in Bali were seen as crucial after more than a decade of inertia, with failure possibly signaling an end to WTO's relevance as a forum for multilateral trade negotiations among its 159 member economies.

global trade expert at the Asian Development Bank Institute and former WTO adviser, said in an email. "The deal thereby defies critics who asserted that the large number of members and their diverging interests would make results impossible."

The deal could still face hurdles and must be approved by all members. It was expected to be presented to the ministers and decided on early Saturday.

Dutch Court: Fortis Bank NV mismanaged

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Netherlands' Supreme Court has upheld rulings that the now-defunct Belgian bank Fortis NV was mismanaged from September 2007 to September 2008, and its then-management board can be held accountable.

Friday's ruling opens the door for investor claims against former CEO Jean-Paul Votron, among others, though not former supervisory Chairman Count Maurice Lippens, whom lower courts found was too far removed from decision making to be held liable.

Fortis, Royal Bank of Scotland and Spain's Santander bought Dutch bank ABN Amro in a hostile takeover in 2007, nominally the largest in banking history.

Fortis agreed to buy ABN's Dutch operations for 24 billion euros in its part of the deal but was unable to finance the buy — which represented around half of its own total size — and eventually spiraled toward bankruptcy. The Dutch state ultimately nationalized all Fortis-ABN operations in the Netherlands in 2008 to avoid a meltdown of the country's financial system. The court cited three specific grounds of mismanagement: its solvency plan for 2008, publishing incorrect information about the risks of its subprime mortgage portfolio ahead of a stock issue in 2007, and its public communication generally.

Friday's decision was hailed by the Dutch small shareholders' union, VEB, which hopes to recover some of their losses not only from the managers — many of whom walked away with generous severance packages — but also the consultants and bankers that advised Fortis.

"The confirmation of mismanagement by the Supreme Court gives a boost to the suit that the VEB is conducting for compensation of investors who suffered considerable losses" in Fortis's fall, the organization said in a reaction.

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

**In collaboration with students of EPB Hato:
Aruba Bank turns on Christmas lights at new Hato roundabout**



ORANJESTAD - The community came together this weekend to celebrate the grand opening of the new, modern Aruba Bank branch, located in Hato. A large group of well-wishers came together on the parking lot of the Hato branch, starting at 6pm, as the inauguration of the building attracted a huge crowd of people who wished to participate in the

achievement celebration of the bank which bears the island's name. Banda Katatumbo, DJ Nutzbeats and the Rincon Boyz supplied the musical entertainment, making sure that everyone enjoyed a Tropical Christmas evening celebrating together with Aruba Bank, before and after the lighting ceremony of the seasonal decorations, on the Hato

roundabout. As a surprise, everyone present received a special "treat", as a gift from Aruba Bank!

Aruba Bank, together with the EPB Hato School, adopted the roundabout, by contributing to its construction and decoration. The roundabout definitely contributes to a safer flow of traffic on the busy Hato road, alleviating the congestion for Aruba Bank's clients, the neighbors, and in general for island residents who drive by that intersection daily.

The EPB students inaugurated the lights and Christmas decorations at the roundabout. This honor was theirs since they helped decorating it in collaboration with Aruba Bank's employees. The team was led by local decorator Magaly Maduro and MAG Decorations. Rocila Acosta, addressed the crowd and thanked everyone who contributed to the final product, the beautifully decorated and lit roundabout, on behalf of Aruba Bank's management. Minister Drs. Paul Croes, also present on this special occasion, also addressed the crowd and expressed his appreciation for Aruba Bank's gesture, and praised the collaboration with the students from EPB Hato school.

After lighting the roundabout, a short fireworks show followed, illuminating the night skies over the new Aruba Bank branch. It should be noted that this new branch replaces the branches in Noord and Paradera, offering all services under just one roof, more conveniently, with more parking spaces. Aruba Bank Camacuri will remain the main office of the bank, here in Aruba. □



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Bugaloe says 'Welcome Back' to Carl and Amy Seholm!



PALM BEACH - Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill special guests of the week are Carl and Amy Seholm from Huntington Ny. They have been coming to Aruba for 20 years and discovered Bugaloe in 2004. They love Aruba for the gorgeous weather, friendly people and nice beaches. What they like best about Bugaloe is it's the place on Aruba with the best people, best view, best drinks and best food. Wow, if that doesn't do the trick! Their favorite menu item is the coconut shrimp and with a few Bombay Sapphire-tonics their day is complete. Carl and Amy's funniest memory about Bugaloe is when they came off a snorkeling tour, the whole soaked group followed them straight into the free salsa classes provided by Bugaloe on Wednesday nights, and continued the night partying away! The Bugaloe crew likes to thank Carl and Amy for being such loyal and lovely Bugaloe guests, and hopes to welcome them for the next 20 years! □

Daniel and Brenda Donovan honored at the Costa Linda!



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Costa Linda Beach Resort as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Daniel and Brenda Donovan from West Warwick, Rhode Island. The honorees are loyal members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the

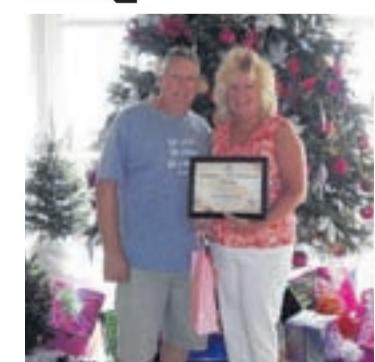
Beauty On The Beach

Virginia Rasmijn

She is married to a local and is staying at her family in law. This is her third visit and planning to stay in Aruba for a very long time but now she is enjoying a very romantic vacation with her husband.

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SPORTS*Aruba TODAY*

NFC showdowns highlight Week 14

BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

As if the San Francisco 49ers don't have enough dislike for the Seahawks, Seattle could clinch the NFC West with a win at San Francisco on Sunday.

As if the New Orleans Saints don't have enough headaches from being pounded by those Seahawks last weekend, they now face another staunch defense when the Carolina Panthers visit the Big Easy in an NFC South showdown.

Those are the highlights on one of the more intriguing weekends of NFL matchups. The regular season is into the fourth quarter.

"If this doesn't fire you up, if this doesn't fire up the fans, then what does?" 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said. "I suppose Abraham Lincoln riding across the field with a frock and a top hat, riding a horse, waving an American flag. I doubt that would fire them up, if this game doesn't fire them up. The people that really love football would be fired up by this matchup."

There isn't a more physical rivalry in the league right now than 49ers-Seahawks. The two defenses don't let up, and the animosity is evident everywhere on the field — and on the sidelines, where Seahawks coach Pete Carroll and Harbaugh have a long-standing feud.



San Francisco 49ers tight end Vernon Davis (85) jumps over St. Louis Rams free safety Rodney McLeod (23) during the first quarter of an NFL football game in San Francisco, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

Makes for a juicy affair at Candlestick Park in a game far more critical to San Francisco's playoff prospects. Seattle clinched the NFL's first playoff berth with a rout of New Orleans on Monday.

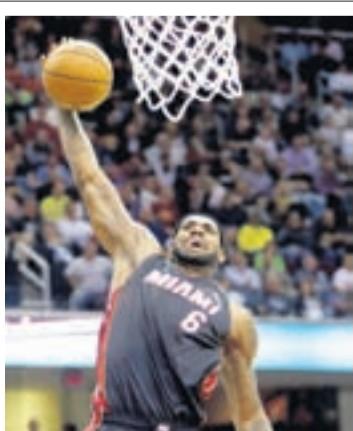
Seattle has owned this series of late, outscoring the 49ers 71-16 in the past two meetings, both at home.

"Every game we play from here on out is important to where we go to get into the playoffs," 49ers linebacker Patrick Willis said. "Once we get in, then I feel like anything can happen." The Seahawks don't doubt it. They have had a good view of the Niners' success the past two years since Harbaugh came aboard.

"They've been winning for a long time. That just makes it that much more of a challenge and difficult to get," Carroll said. "We're going for it with everything we've got this week."

The Saints have been on top of the NFC South all season, but were caught last week when they flopped in Seattle and the Panthers won their eighth straight game, beating Tampa Bay.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees bristled at the notion the Saints' last performance might have eroded their confidence.

Continued on Page 20


LeBron James to co-star in movie

Miami Heat's LeBron James goes in for a shot against the Cleveland Cavaliers in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — LeBron James is taking his game to the silver screen. The Miami Heat superstar confirmed reports before Thursday's game against the Chicago Bulls that he will co-star with Kevin Hart in the comedy "Ballers."

Hart plays the brother of an NBA star who gets a chance to prove himself at a fantasy basketball camp in Miami.

James says the opportunity to work with Hart was a product of their "friendship" and "mutual respect."

He says the role is "something I could relate to, as far as fantasy basketball and guys wanting to be basketball players" who "never had really had the great opportunity to be a professional athlete." □

NHL Capsules

Penguins surge to 5-1 win over Sharks

The Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — Max Pacioretty scored his ninth goal in the last nine games and the surging Montreal Canadiens stretched their unbeaten run to nine with a 2-1 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night.

Tomas Plekanec also scored for Montreal (18-9-3), which jumped a point ahead of Boston (18-8-2) into first place in the Atlantic Division — although the Bruins have two games in hand. The Canadiens are 8-0-1 in their last nine.

Gregory Campbell scored for Boston, which is 6-2-1 in its past nine.

The first meeting of the season between these bitter rivals had the Bell Centre at top volume to start, but the building got quiet when Boston defenseman Johnny Boychuk was wheeled off the ice on a stretcher 4:28 into the game.

Boychuk was injured on a hit by Pacioretty, who got 2 minutes for boarding. Boychuk was able to move all his limbs as he was taken to the hospital, the Bruins said. After the game, coach Claude Julien said Boychuk was released from the hospital and would return to Boston with the team.

Canadiens goalie Carey Price made 32 saves and was especially sharp in the final 20 minutes.

PENGUINS 5, SHARKS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Chris Kunitz scored twice during a four-goal second period and Pittsburgh beat San Jose for its fifth straight victory.

Pascal Dupuis, Jayson Megna and Kris Letang also scored for the Penguins, who snapped San Jose's six-game winning streak in a showdown between Stanley Cup contenders.

Sidney Crosby added three assists in his 500th career game to push his point total to an NHL-leading 42. Marc-Andre Fleury made 44 saves for the Penguins against the league's highest-scoring team.

Pittsburgh played without star Evgeni Malkin,

scratched after sustaining a lower-body injury during the morning skate.

Tomas Hertl got his 14th goal for San Jose. Antti Niemi made 23 saves but was pulled after two periods, and the Sharks lost in regulation for only the fourth time this season.

RANGERS 3, SABRES 1
BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Henrik Lundqvist made 27 saves to lead New York over Buffalo.

Rick Nash, Brad Richards and Mats Zuccarello scored for New York, which bounced back from a 5-2 loss to Winnipeg on Monday.

Tyler Ennis scored and Ryan Miller made 28 saves in a loss that drops the Sabres to 3-12-1 at the First Niagara Center.

Lundqvist, playing his first game since signing a seven-year, \$59.5 million contract, was hardly troubled through 40 minutes, but was outstanding in the third period.

WILD 4, BLACKHAWKS 3
ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Marco Scandella's slap shot with 1:48 left, the defenseman's first goal this season, lifted Minnesota over Chicago.

Jonas Brodin scored on a power play with 5:39 remaining to tie the game for the Wild, who raised their home record to 12-3-2 and handed the Blackhawks their first loss in their past seven road games.

With Charlie Coyle partially screening Corey Crawford at the edge of the crease, Brodin wound up and sent the puck ricocheting off Blackhawks defenseman Johnny Oduya and past the goalie's outstretched glove.

Crawford made 19 saves.

HURRICANES 5, PREDATORS 2

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jeff Skinner had a hat trick to lead Carolina to a victory over Nashville.

Skinner has five goals in his past two games.

Justin Faulk and Riley Nash also scored for Carolina, winners of its past two. □



Winnipeg Jets' Dustin Byfuglien (33) knocks Florida Panthers' Tomas Kopecky (33) to the ice during the third period of a NHL hockey game in Sunrise, Fla., Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013. The Panthers won 5-2.

Associated Press

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NFL Preview

Continued from Page 18

"We've done things well for a very long time in a lot of different ways," Brees said. "One game does not set that back. One game does not change our mindset, our confidence level or our attitude in any way. ... We still know we're a great football team."

The Panthers' winning streak featured what was widely seen as a coming-of-age performance on a Monday night against New England a few weeks ago. Winning a night game in the Superdome, where the Saints are 6-0 this season, might be even more impressive.

"You don't really have to add much sugar to this one," Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins said.

Nor to the rematch in two weeks.

The Indianapolis Colts can clinch the AFC South with a win over the Cincinnati

Bengals or a Tennessee Titans loss at Denver. Colts linebacker Robert Mathis leads the NFL with 15 1/2 sacks and needs one to surpass Dwight Freeney (16 in 2004) for the club record. Cincinnati is 5-0 at home for the first time since 1988, when the Bengals won all eight regular-season home games and two playoff games before falling to San Francisco in the Super Bowl. Andy Dalton has thrown for 3,144 yards, joining Peyton Manning as the only players to throw for 3,000 yards in each of his first three seasons. Week 14 began with the Jacksonville Jaguars beating the Houston Texans 27-20 on Thursday. Jacksonville won at home for the first time since November 2012, while Houston extended its franchise-record losing streak to 11 games.

Also on Sunday, it's Detroit



Seattle Seahawks' defensive end Michael Bennett returns a fumble for a touchdown against the New Orleans Saints in the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, in Seattle.

Associated Press

at Philadelphia, Kansas City at Washington, Cleveland at New England, St. Louis at Arizona, Miami at Pittsburgh, Minnesota at Baltimore, New York Giants at San Diego, Atlanta at Green Bay, Buffalo at Tampa Bay, and Oakland at New York Jets. Dallas is at Chicago on Monday.□

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Jaguars hand Texans 11th straight loss, 27-20

JACKSONVILLE, Florida
(AP) — Jacksonville's Chad Henne threw two touchdown passes and Jordan Todman scored after some trick passing as the Jaguars held on to beat Houston 27-20 on Thursday.

NFL Roundup

The Jaguars (4-9) won their third straight and continued to show signs of progress under first-year coach Gus Bradley. They also won at home for the first time in over a year.

"Our guys just really believe," Bradley said. "The biggest challenge is to keep doing what we're doing. We're a young team that's learning how to do this."

Houston (2-11) saw its franchise-record losing streak reach 11 games, a stretch of futility that could lead to the firing of coach Gary Kubiak.

Kubiak and the Texans looked as if they would end the streak but Geno Hayes intercepted Matt Schaub's pass with 2:08 remaining. Up until then, the inclusion of Schaub at the expense of starting Texans quarterback Case Keenum late in the third quarter had reaped dividends.

After the key interception, the Jaguars milked the clock, and Josh Scobee's 39-yard field goal provided some insurance.

Houston had one final chance, but Schaub was sacked on his first snap with 20 seconds left and 77 yards to go.

Schaub completed 17 of 29 passes for 198 yards, with a touchdown and an interception. Andre Johnson caught 13 passes for

154 yards.

The Jaguars also profited from a trick play when they were holding a 24-10 lead in the third quarter. Henne threw behind the line of scrimmage to receiver Ace Sanders, who then heaved a deep ball across the field to running back Todman, who was all alone in the endzone and hauled in the 21-yard reception.

It was the second consecutive week a non-quarterback threw a TD pass for Jacksonville.

Henne completed 12 of 27 passes for 117 yards. He hooked up with Lewis for a

1-yard scoring strike in the first quarter and found Cecil Shorts III for a 6-yarder in the second.

The Texans had their own first-half touchdown when Keenum threw to Keshawn Martin.

Keenum completed 16 of 29 passes for 159 yards, with an interception, before getting benched. His last pass of the half was intercepted, ending a chance to tie the game.

The Jaguars are enjoying a modest turnaround after starting the season 0-8. Two victories came against Houston, including a 13-6



Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Marcedes Lewis (89) pulls in a one-yard touchdown reception in front of Houston Texans cornerback Kareem Jackson (25) during the first quarter of an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

punt-fest 11 days ago.

The Texans managed a season-low 218 yards in that one, prompting some

players to apologize to the city. Johnson called it the "lowest point" of his 11-year career. □

Texans fire coach Gary Kubiak

By DARRELL LOVELL

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Gary Kubiak pulled the Texans out of the NFL basement and remains the only coach to take them to the playoffs.

Related Stories

That wasn't enough to save his job, not with the Texans mired in an 11-game skid that has dropped them back to the bottom of the league.

Houston fired Kubiak on Friday, one day after the Texans lost 27-20 at Jacksonville and continued their stunning fall for a team that expected to make a Super Bowl run. Houston (2-11) was flagged 14 times for a franchise-record 177 yards.

The 52-year-old Kubiak was hired in 2006 and led the team to back-to-back AFC South titles in 2011-2012, the highlights of his eight-year tenure as coach of his



Houston Texans head coach Gary Kubiak speaks to the media Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, in Houston after running his first practice since suffering a mini-stroke during a game nearly two weeks ago.

hometown NFL team.

The Texans said they couldn't wait any longer to start turning things around, not with the losses and undisciplined play piling up. "What's taken place with this organization is unacceptable," general manager Rick Smith said. "We've got three weeks of an evaluation process

left and we've got to right the ship." Kubiak's overall record is 61-64, with a 2-2 mark in the playoffs. Owner Bob McNair said the decision to let him go was a hard one. "It was difficult for me because I think so much of Gary," McNair said. "We've been evaluating it every game and asking the question, 'What's in the best interest of the organization?' We're at the point now where we need to go ahead and make some changes because losing like this is unacceptable."

He added: "We're here to have a winning culture and this year has not contributed to that." The Texans said defensive coordinator Wade Phillips would serve as interim coach for the rest of what has been a miserable season. McNair said NFL and head coaching experience were important fac-

tors in filling the job, and that the 66-year-old Phillips will be considered.

Kubiak suffered a mini-stroke Nov. 3 in a frightening scene, collapsing at halftime during a game against the Colts and being rushed to a Houston hospital. He suffered a transient ischemic attack, which occurs when blood flow to the brain is briefly interrupted, typically by a blood clot or narrowed blood vessels. Experts say they are often a warning sign for a future stroke, particularly within three months of a TIA.

Kubiak returned to coach, but the Texans have been unable to rebound from injuries to top players including quarterback Matt Schaub, running back Arian Foster and linebacker Brian Cushing, who was lost for the second straight season. □

U.S. to play Ghana, Portugal, Germany at World Cup

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

The U.S. drew a daunting task for next year's World Cup: difficult opponents, tropical venues and a wearying 9,000-mile zigzag journey across Brazil.

The Americans wound up with the potentially punishing group they feared and will play Ghana, Portugal and Germany next June as they try to achieve a U.S. first: reaching the knockout phase twice in a row.

While Ghana eliminated the Americans in 2006 and 2010, the Black Stars won't do it again. The U.S. opens its seventh straight World Cup appearance against Ghana on June 16 at Natal.

The U.S. meets Portugal and 2008 FIFA Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo six days later in the Amazon rain forest city Manaus. The Americans have just three off days to recover before closing Group G on June 26 in Recife against three-time champion Germany. "I think we have the quality, if we play our best ball, to get out of the group," U.S. captain Clint Dempsey said after Friday's draw set the eight four-nation groups. "You can't think about, 'Am I the favorite? Am I the underdog? What's it going to be like playing in the heat? What's it going to be like with the travel?' Those are factors that come into it, but at the end of the day both teams have to deal with it."

After having the shortest group-play travel in South Africa, the U.S. will have the longest in Brazil. The Americans will be based in Sao Paulo and face trips of 1,436 miles to Natal, 1,832 miles to Manaus and 1,321 miles to Recife. They also will play all three matches in the tropics, with the second and third matches in the afternoon.

And the U.S. group has the top average FIFA world ranking.

"It's definitely one of the tougher groups, if not the toughest, but at the same time, this is what the World Cup's all about. You go there to play against the best," American forward Jozy Altidore said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I think



United States head coach Juergen Klinsmann from Germany arrives for the draw ceremony for the 2014 soccer World Cup in Costa do Sauípe near Salvador, Brazil, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.

Associated Press

the boys will be excited, will be up for it."

U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann, who replaced Bob Bradley 2½ years ago, played for Germany's 1990 World Cup championship team and coached his native country to third place at home in the 2006 tournament, commuting to Europe from his California house in Orange County. "It couldn't get any more difficult or any bigger," he said at the draw in Costa do Sauípe, Brazil. "It's a real challenge. And we'll take it. We'll take it on, and hopefully we're going to surprise some people there."

The U.S. and South Korea were the last remaining teams in draw pot three. While the Americans landed in a group with an average FIFA ranking of 11.25, South Korea wound up in Group H, creating a group with the poorest average at 28.25.

"I think the team's mentality is that we can go and play with anybody," American defender Matt Besler said. "Now we're going to have to prove it."

Germany beat the U.S. 2-0 in its 1998 World Cup opener in Paris — with Klinsmann setting up the first goal and scoring the second — then edged the Americans 1-0 on a controversial goal in the 2002 quarterfinal in South Korea.

Die Mannschaft is coached by Klinsmann's former assistant, Joachim Loew. The

Americans beat a second-tier German roster 4-3 in a June exhibition at Washington.

"With Jurgen Klinsmann, they have another mentality," Loew said. "I learned a lot from Jurgen, so this

Americans wound up atop a group for the first time, and England advanced as the second-place nation. This time, second-ranked Germany and fifth-ranked Portugal are the favorites to advance to the second



Soccer legend Pele' waves as he arrives for the draw ceremony for the 2014 soccer World Cup in Costa do Sauípe near Salvador, Brazil, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.

Associated Press

is special." Ranked 14th in the world, the U.S. has alternated quick exits with advancement since returning to soccer's showcase in 1990. After the draw four years ago, one British paper used a headline "EASY" for England, Algeria, Slovenia and the Yanks, and The Sun called

it the "best English group since the Beatles." The

round. If the U.S. reaches the round of 16, it would face Belgium, Russia, Algeria or South Korea from Group H.

"I guarantee you Jurgen knows more about Germany than Jogi Loew knows about the U.S.," U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati said.

As for the rest of the field, Brazil, Cameroon, Croatia,

Mexico were put in Group A; Australia, Chile, Netherlands and Spain in Group B; Colombia, Greece, Ivory Coast and Japan in Group C; Costa Rica, England, Italy and Uruguay in Group D; Ecuador, France, Honduras and Switzerland in Group E; and Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iran and Nigeria in Group F.

The U.S. will feel pressure to open with a win against 24th-ranked Ghana. The Black Stars defeated the Americans 2-1 in the 2006 group stage and by the same score in overtime in the round of 16 at the last World Cup in South Africa.

"They're the team that beat us, kind of crushed our dreams of being in the World Cup, so I think we're due a little bit of luck and we're due a win against them," Dempsey said.

At the 2002 tournament, the U.S. opened with a 3-2 upset of Portugal after taking a shocking three-goal lead in the first 36 minutes. The Americans will train at

home from mid-May until early June and plan a series of exhibition games, which likely will include England as an opponent, before heading to Brazil.

"Everybody is saying that this is the 'Group of Death' and it's such a hard challenge," former American captain John Harkes said.

"I still think that the U.S. can rise to the occasion." □

NBA Capsules

Bulls shake off form slump to beat Heat

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Carlos Boozer scored 27 points, and the Chicago Bulls beat LeBron James and the Miami Heat 107-87 on Thursday night.

Luol Deng had 20 points, Taj Gibson chipped in with 19, and Joakim Noah added 17 points and 15 rebounds as the Bulls had no trouble knocking off the defending champions.

Chicago took control early on and hung on down the stretch after watching a 25-point lead in the third quarter dwindle to 12 late in the game.

It was an impressive showing by a team that had dropped six of seven and is once again trying to get by without the injured Derrick Rose.

The Bulls shot 50 percent and were 10 for 19 on 3-pointers. They also outrebounded Miami 49-27.

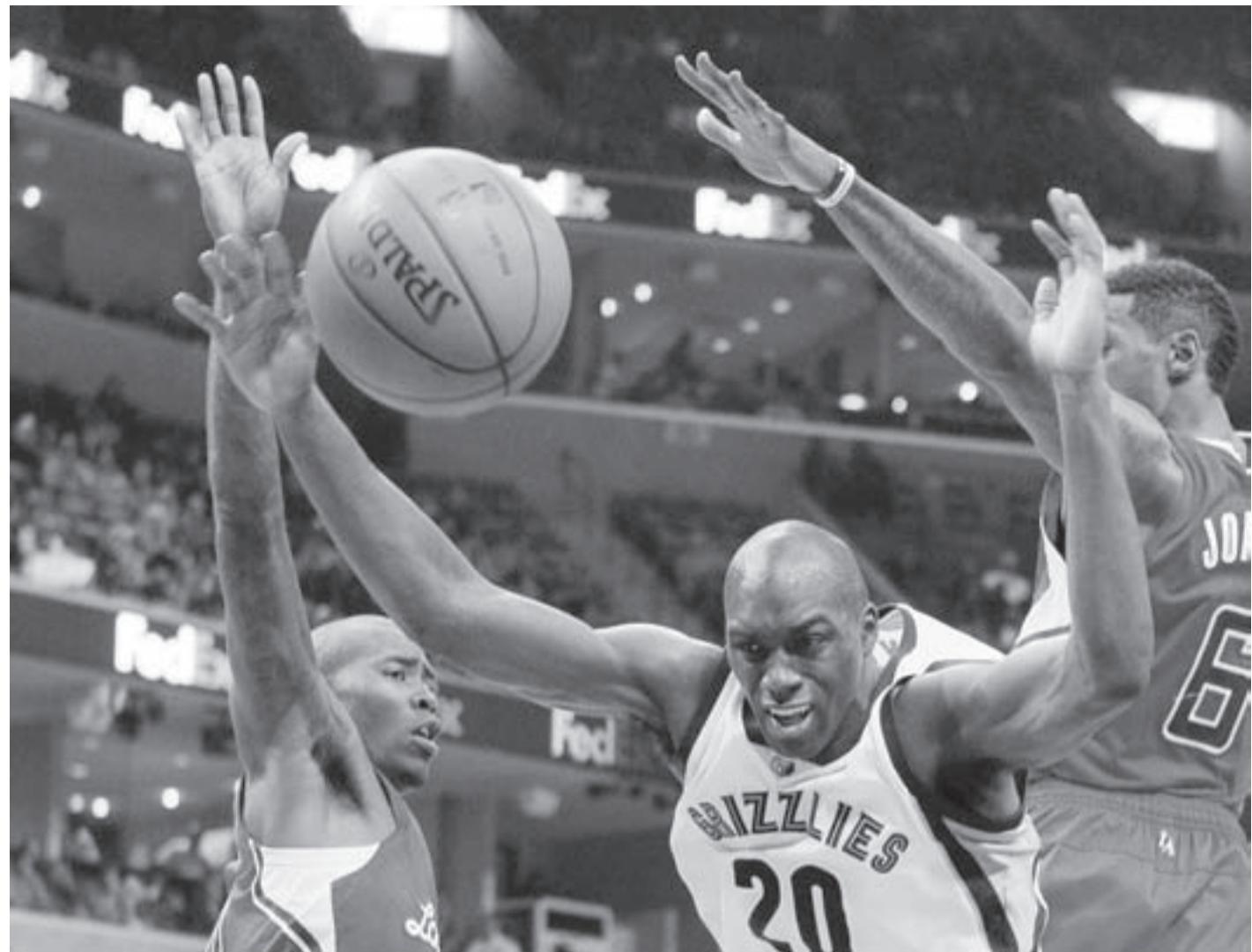
James scored 21 points for Miami, but the Heat shot a season low for the second straight game, converting 41.6 percent from the field.

KNICKS 113, NETS 83

NEW YORK (AP) — The Knicks are no longer the biggest losers in New York. The Brooklyn Nets look like the real Big Apple busts.

Carmelo Anthony had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Iman Shumpert scored a season-high 17 points, and the Knicks ended a nine-game losing streak in the first meeting of the season between the city rivals.

The Knicks (4-13) snapped a tie with the Nets (5-14) for most losses in New York, winning the game and the crowd with a dominant second half that had Spike Lee and the rest of the fans wearing



Memphis Grizzlies guard Quincy Pondexter (20) loses a rebound between Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan (6) and guard Jamal Crawford, left, in the second half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013, in Memphis, Tenn. The Clippers won 101-81.

blue and orange cheering perhaps the Knicks' most complete performance of the season.

Andrea Bargnani scored 16 before he was ejected in the fourth quarter.

Brook Lopez had 24 points and nine rebounds for the Nets.

CLIPPERS 101, GRIZZLIES 81

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Reserves Darren Collison and Jamal Craw-

ford scored 15 points each and Los Angeles Clippers used a strong second half to beat Memphis.

Chris Paul also had 15 points and eight assists for the Clippers, who snapped a two-game losing streak. Blake Griffin added 14 points and nine rebounds, while DeAndre Jordan had 10 points and 14 boards for Los Angeles. Kosta Koufos led Memphis with 17

points, while Mike Conley had 16 on 6-for-8 shooting. Quincy Pondexter scored 15, and Zach Randolph — back after missing two games following ingrown toenail surgery — had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

The Clippers shot 13 for 20 in the fourth quarter as Paul and Griffin sat on the bench, leaving the game to the reserves. □

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Glassdoor, a jobs website, raises \$50M

M. J. DE LA MERCED
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For years, Glassdoor has served as a way for employees to vent about their companies and bosses. It's become a business that investors are increasingly eager to support.

The 6-year-old startup said on Thursday that it had raised \$50 million in new financing, nearly doubling its total fundraising to \$93 million. The latest round was led by Tiger Global Management and includes a new investor, the Dragoneer Investment Group, and other existing backers, Battery Ventures, Benchmark Capital, DAG Ventures and Sutter Hill Ventures. It's a big move by Glassdoor, a job listings site that has gained some infamy for letting people rate their employers and leave anonymous reviews.

The company promotes itself as a way for job applicants to gain insight into work conditions and salaries, although the business has also become a forum that lets workers vent about - or praise - their superiors and colleagues.

Since opening its virtual doors in 2008, the company has grown to 22 million members in 190 countries, with compound annual revenue growth of roughly 160 percent. It has also garnered corporate clients like Facebook and Nordstrom, many of whom subscribe to additional analysis and recruiting tools.

"Glassdoor has rapidly become a critical player in the global recruiting market due to its extensive content platform and data insights that benefit both job seekers and employers," Lee Fixel, a partner at Tiger Global, said in a statement. The new money will help Glassdoor continue to expand internationally, building on an audience that already represents a quarter of its traffic. The financing will also help add an estimated 100 employees to the company's existing staff of 200. □

US consumer spending up 0.3 percent in October

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumers increased their spending in October even though their wages and salaries barely increased, raising questions about how strong the economy will grow at the end of the year. Consumer spending increased 0.3 percent in October compared with September when spending rose 0.2 percent, the Commerce Department reported Friday. Wages and salaries rose a slight 0.1 percent after a much stronger 1 percent rise in September. Overall income actually fell 0.1 percent following a 0.5 percent rise in September. But September's gain was inflated by a legal settlement that boosted farm income that month, leading to a big decline in farm

income in October.

The personal saving rate dipped to 4.8 percent of after-tax income in October, down from 5.2 percent in September, reflecting the difference between spending and income. The rise in spending reflected gains in purchases of long-lasting manufactured goods such as autos and gains in spending on non-durable goods such as clothing and services such as rent and utilities. It meant a solid increase for the first month of the current quarter.

Consumer spending is closely watched because it accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

The economy grew at a 3.6 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest since early 2012, but nearly half the

growth came from a buildup in business stockpiles, a trend that could reverse in the current quarter and hold back growth. When excluding inventories, the economy grew at a 1.9 percent rate in the third quarter, down from 2.1 percent in the spring. That's in line with the same subpar rate that the economy has seen since the Great Recession ended four years ago.

Many economists believe overall economic growth will dip below 2 percent in the current October-December quarter, in part because a slowdown in inventory building will act as a drag on activity.

But there have been some signs of strength including a separate report Friday showing that the unemployment rate dropped to a five-year low of 7 percent

in November as the economy created 203,000 jobs.

In the third-quarter, consumers increased their spending at a tepid 1.4 percent annual rate. That was the slowest since the final quarter of 2009, a few months after the recession officially ended. But the spending activity in the third quarter was held back by flat spending on services. That may have reflected an unusually mild summer, which cut demand for air conditioning. One hopeful sign: Consumers spent on goods at the fastest rate since early 2012. An inflation gauge closely watched by the Federal Reserve showed prices were flat in October and have risen just 0.7 percent over the past 12 months, well below the Fed's 2 percent target for inflation. □

US markets jump after strong jobs report

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose sharply Friday after the government reported a fourth straight month of solid U.S. job gains, the latest encouraging sign for the economy.

The strengthening job market focused investors on the nation's improving economy instead of concerns about the Federal Reserve's stimulus, snapping a five-day losing streak for stocks.

Stocks had been falling this week after a string of positive economic reports made investors worry that the Fed would soon pull back on its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases, which have kept long-term interest rates low and supported the stock market.

Now that hiring is showing consistent strength, investors seem to be letting go of their earlier worry that the economy isn't ready for the Fed to start weaning the U.S. off that stimulus.

"The jobs report was outstanding," said Randy Frederick, a director of trading and derivatives at Charles Schwab. "It's refreshing to see the markets react

positively, because we've been in a mode for so long of 'good news is bad news.'"

Employers added 203,000 jobs last month after adding 200,000 in October, the Labor Department said Friday. November's job gain

out the day. The Dow Jones industrial average rose by as much as 200 points in early afternoon trading before easing back slightly before the close.

The Dow closed up 198.69 points, or 1.3 percent, to 16,020.20. The Standard &

All 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index rose. Industrial stocks and others that tend to rise the most when the economy is growing posted some of the biggest gains. The jobs report showed that manufacturers added 27,000 jobs, the most since



A board on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average, Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. Stocks closed sharply higher after the U.S. government reported a big increase in hiring last month. The DJIA jumped 198 points, or 1.3 percent, to 16,020.

helped lower the unemployment rate to 7 percent from 7.3 percent in October.

Stocks jumped at the open and moved higher through-

Poor's 500 index rose 20.06 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,805.09, its biggest gain in a month. The Nasdaq composite climbed 29.36, or 0.7 percent, to 4,062.52.

March 2012. General Electric rose 49 cents, or 2 percent, to \$26.94. Plane maker Boeing increased \$2.45, or 2 percent, to \$135.18. □

Fortune Favors The Boss

© 2013 Economist

Is the new boss of Time Warner Cable about to become one of the luckiest-ever winners of the great chief-executive pay lottery?

Robert Marcus is set to take over as CEO on Jan. 1. If rumors are to be believed, that will be just in time for the cable firm to be bought by one of a host of rivals that are now circling it. A change-of-control clause in his contract means that he could go straight back out of the door with a "golden goodbye" of more than \$56 million. The biggest loser, in contrast, may be Philippe Varin, who will step down as boss of P.S.A. Peugeot Citroën, a struggling French carmaker. On Nov. 27 he issued a statement saying that he would give up a pension provision valued at \$28.4 million. The board will decide his future pension arrangements before he retires, probably with an eye on public opinion.

He follows in the footsteps of Fred Goodwin, who presided over the collapse of Royal Bank of Scotland. In 2009, again after a public outcry, the man known as "Fred the Shred," because of his fondness for firing people, agreed to reduce his pension by \$345,000 a year to a paltry \$560,844. It is rare for public disapproval of generous golden goodbyes to have so much impact. Even the introduction of "say on pay" votes in countries such as America and Britain seems only to have curbed the most egregious excesses.

Ira Kay of Pay Governance, a consultant, says that most American company boards facing such votes have managed to win them by dropping overgenerous perks such as the automatic vesting of the boss's share options even when he has kept his job following a takeover. The once-widespread practice of paying a boss's taxes on his post-takeover payout, a nice little earner known as the "excise tax gross-up," also has ended, Kay says, costing some chief executives millions of dollars. Bosses no longer trigger big severance payouts by "self-termination," aka quitting or retiring, adds Doug Friske of Towers Watson, another pay consultant. "Topping up" the pension fund for a boss who leaves earlier than expected also is now frowned on. "Say on pay" also has forced boards to get better at costing perks that once wrongly were regarded as practically free.

Still Donald Hambrick, a management professor at Pennsylvania State University in State College, calls the golden parachute "a chronic problem that I don't see changing anytime soon." The procession of bosses exiting with fabulous payoffs continues.

Pay consultants brought in by firms seeking a new boss often get blamed for regarding the most generous existing package in the market as the baseline for negotiations, but Hambrick also points to "a small cottage industry of elite lawyers" who are used by any candidate for a CEO position and have mastered every trick in the book. By the time the public is frothing at the mouth about some fired corporate failure walking off with a fortune, it is usually too late to do anything about it. "Everything is negotiated up front," Hambrick says. "That is the time to be outraged."

Once a boss has failed and pulled the cord on his golden parachute, boards typically conclude that it is best simply to pay up quietly. Even though recent legal changes have made it easier, even in America, to claw back some of the money paid to failed bosses, in practice firms will try to do that only if there is cast-iron evidence of fault, such as a financial misstatement.

None of this should come as a surprise to anyone familiar with the myopic ways boards tend to work in practice. The moment when a company is paying off a failure is also the moment when it is trying to attract the best possible candidate to sort out the mess. Contesting the last boss's deal could easily scare off the ideal new one.

Thus the CEO wheel of fortune keeps on turning. □

Sears to spin off Lands' End business

HOFFMAN ESTATES, Illinois (AP) —

Sears Holdings Corp. said Friday that it will spin off its Lands' End clothing business as a separate company by distributing stock to the retailer's shareholders. It's the latest move by the struggling retailer to turn around its results as it faces wider losses and increasingly displeased investors. Sears shares rose more than 4 percent in premarket trading.

Sears had said in October that it was considering separating the Lands' End and Sears Auto Center businesses from the rest of the company. It did not mention Sears Auto Center in Friday's announcement.

Belus Capital Advisors analyst Brian Sozzi said the move shows Sears was unable to get a buyer at the

right price for Land's End and may raise questions about how much other well-known brand names Sears owns, like Craftsman, are worth. "It makes you question the value of what Sears is sitting on," he said. "It may have to continue dismembering itself to stay alive today and shrink from inside out." Sears has spun off other businesses over the past two years, including its Hometown and Sears Outlet stores and its Orchard Supply Hardware Stores, to raise cash.

Sears Chairman and CEO Edward Lampert disclosed recently that his stake in the company has been reduced to less than 50 percent as investors pulled money out of his hedge fund.

The news underscores the

intense pressure facing the billionaire hedge fund manager, who took over as CEO in February to turn around the business.

Sears and the company's Kmart chain have struggled as rivals have lured away customers over the years. Last year, Sears announced plans to restore profitability by cutting costs, reducing inventory, selling off some assets and spinning off others. Those moves helped it reduce net debt by \$400 million and generated \$1.8 billion in cash from the asset sales in the latest fiscal year.

Sears also has been building a loyalty program called Shop Your Way, which accounts for 65 percent of its sales and has tens of millions of active customers. □



Sears at the Eaton Centre in Toronto opens its doors for business in October, 2013. Sears Holdings Corp. said Friday that it will spin off its Lands' End clothing business as a separate company by distributing stock to the retailer's shareholders.

(AP Photo/Frank Gunn)

Oil higher on strong US economic data

PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

The price of oil moved higher above \$97 a barrel Friday, buoyed by stronger economic growth and falling unemployment in the world's largest economy. By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark U.S. crude for January delivery was up 27 cents at \$97.33 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Thursday, oil rose to near \$98 for the first time in five weeks before closing at \$97.38, up 18 cents.

U.S. data showed the outlook for hiring is improving and the economy is growing at its fastest pace in more than a year.

On Friday, the Labor Department said the U.S. unemployment rate in November fell to a five-year low of 7 percent from 7.3 percent in October. Employers added 203,000 jobs last month, many in higher-paying sectors like manufacturing and construction. The jobs report came after Thursday's data from the Commerce Department showing that the

U.S. economy grew at a 3.6 percent annualized rate in July through September, the fastest since early 2012. The numbers signaled momentum in the economy, although some economists cautioned that nearly half the growth came from a buildup in business stockpiles, a trend that could reverse in the current quarter. Analysts at Commerzbank in Frankfurt noted that storms and cold weather were hampering oil production in the North Sea as well as in North Dakota and Texas. □

Mutts



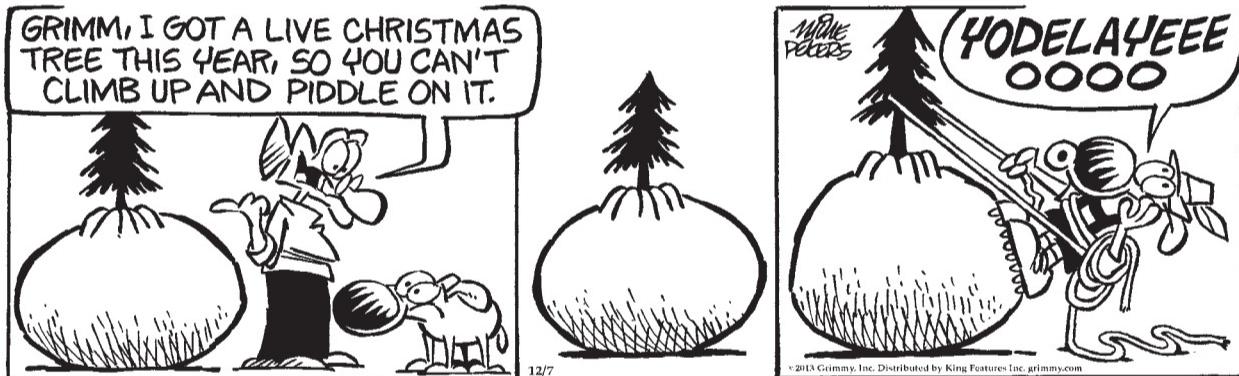
6 Chix



Blondie



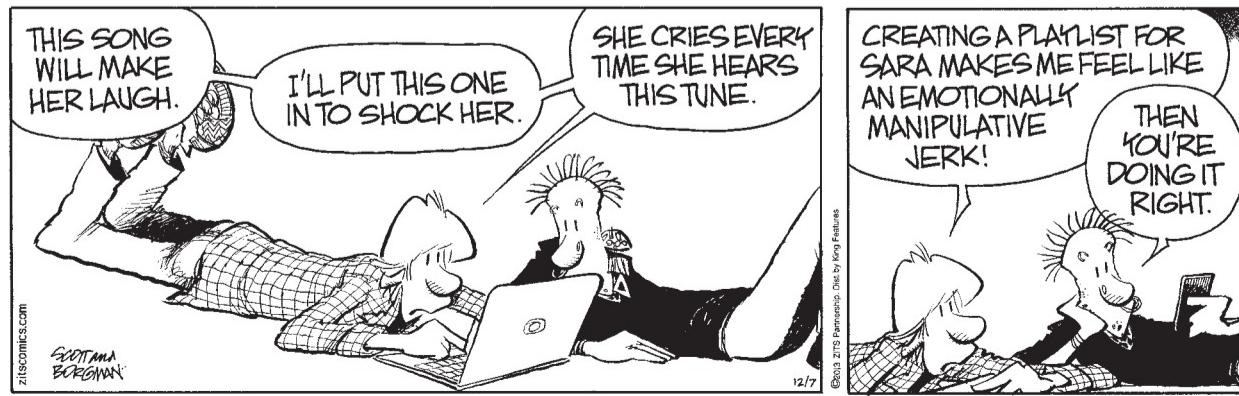
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	1	4	7									
5				8	2	1						3
2					7						4	
6						7					6	
3							4				2	
9								5			5	
4									2	9	6	
1	3	6										

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	7	8	5	1	4	2	6	9				
5	2	9	3	7	6	8	4	1				
4	6	1	9	2	8	5	7	3				
1	4	5	2	8	9	6	3	7				
6	8	3	1	5	7	9	2	4				
2	9	7	4	6	3	1	8	5				
7	3	2	8	9	5	4	1	6				
8	5	4	6	3	1	7	9	2				
9	1	6	7	4	2	3	5	8				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

ACROSS
1 Think deeply
5 Mountains of South America
10 Calf meat
14 Very eager
15 Unwilling
16 Female friend, in France
17 Punch
18 1/16 of a pound
19 Pot covers
20 Cyclone
22 Natural environment
24 Sprite
25 Baseball's Yogi
26 Dinner course
29 That girl
30 Up to the time that
34 Wonder-struck
35 Singer Tillis
36 On the go
37 Paper sack
38 Like income you report to Uncle Sam
40 __ constrictor; crushing snake
41 Got rid of
43 Peg for Trevino
44 Finch or falcon
45 Kick back
46 Pekoe or oolong
47 Ravels at the edges
48 Was bold
50 Fraternity letter
51 Commercial presenter
54 Guadalajara resident
58 Superman's accessory
59 Name for eight popes
61 As __ as a boil
62 Ridicules
63 Hockey scores
64 At any time
65 Light browns
66 Pyle or Els
67 Use a Kindle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20			21		22		23					
			24		25							
26	27	28		29			30		31	32	33	
34			35		36							
37			38		39							
41		42		43			44					
45			46		47							
51	52	53			54				55	56	57	
58			59		60				61			
62			63			64						
65			66			67						

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/7/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

P	I	N	S	R	U	M	B	A	T	R	A
A	R	E	A	U	S	U	L	R	O	A	R
P	O	E	T	N	E	T	H	E	M	O	S
A	N	D	T	I	R	E	O	A	T	H	S
L	I	O	N	S	S	O	D				
S	C	E	N	E	S	A	T	T			
C	O	S	T	S	S	A	G	A	H		
A	L	S	O	L	I	F	E	P	I		
M	E	S	E	A	T	S	E	V	E		
S	Y	S	T	M	E	P	U	S	P		
P	A	S	T	R	I	L	Y	I	L		
A	S	I	A	N	L	A	D	R	U		
I	N	O	R	D	I	N	A	T	E		
D	A	T	E	R	I	S	R	U	E		
S	P	A	S	E	X	E	R	T	A		

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12/7/13

- 2 Hideous
3 Chowder or broth
4 Intellectual
5 Coldly reserved
6 Part of speech
7 VP __ Quayle
8 Engraver
9 Collect wool
10 Courageous
11 Give off, as fumes
12 Verdi opera
13 In case
21 As __ as the hills
23 Actor __ Willis
25 __ birthday card; tardy greetings
26 Fencing sword
27 In the know
28 Allowed by law
29 Evil spell
31 Leg bone
32 Bar soap brand
33 Goes first
35 Insane
36 Stein contents
38 Austin's state
39 Actress Arthur
42 Melancholy
44 Strong tough-looking fellow
46 Extreme fright
47 Electronic communication
50 Uptight
51 "Beat it!"
52 Family member
53 Take a lid off of
54 African nation
55 Sheltered bay
56 Zone
57 Bookish fellow
60 Forbid

Where Mandela once boxed, men fill days lifting weights

RICK LYMAN

© 2013 New York Times

SOWETO, South Africa - Tumelo Mabitle shifted his weight from foot to foot and took a few sturdy jabs at the heavy bag.

Yes, said Mabitle, 20, he was aware that it was in this very Soweto gym that Nelson Mandela had once trained as a boxer in the 1950s. An amateur boxer himself, Mabitle said knowing that Mandela had worked out in the same room gave him "great confidence," although he had also wished for something more from the anti-apartheid leader, who died Thursday.

"I wish he could come here," said Mabitle, an unemployed recent high school graduate, speaking before Mandela's death. "And to tell him how we need more jobs and more housing for the people - and more places like this to keep the people occupied and give them something to do." When Mandela trained here - something he said he did to keep in shape and take his mind off the seemingly endless struggle for liberation - the building was known as the Donaldson Orlando Community Center, after Lt. Col. James Donaldson, who in 1936 established the first private trust for black social development in South Africa. Today, it is also known as the Soweto YMCA, stretching along dusty Rathebe Street from the Pick & Save Butchery to the police station in the Orlando East section of Soweto, about a mile from where Mandela lived at the time. Mabitle said that he hoped, someday, to work in a health club or as a trainer for a sports team, but that such jobs were

hard to come by in South Africa these days.

Not far away, Siyabulela Mbongwana, 33, was spotting a friend who was doing shoulder lifts. Mbongwana said he came to the gym to keep in shape and to fill his days. He said he had no idea when he started coming that Mandela had once trained here.

"You go to all these Mandela museums in Soweto and learn all about him," he said, wondering why there was no photograph of Mandela at the gym at the time.

He paused before turning back to his training. "Do you know anyone who needs bouncers?" he asked. "I am looking for work." The gym was renovated last year, said Musa Mbatha, 22, an engineering student who said he visited a few times a week to keep in shape. Four swivel fans rested on shelves above the workout room, swirling the dusty air in the light from hanging lamps. The new equipment was gleaming, and a new rubber floor helped absorb the punishment of a long workout. Pounding percussion - the house music that was wildly popular in South Africa - poured from a small pair of speakers in one corner. "No eating at the gym please," read a sign on one wall. At the gym's entrance, another sign explained the due date for the monthly fee - just under \$10.

The truth is, Mbatha said, this is no longer a hardcore boxing gym. Mostly it is used by those, like him, who simply wanted to keep in shape. But everyone is proud that when it was a boxing gym, Mandela was its most famous member. □



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BP pushes technical limits to tap extreme fields

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

HOUSTON (AP)—BP's strategy after the Deepwater Horizon tragedy: Go deeper.

BP is leading an industry-wide push to develop technology that can retrieve oil from formations that are so deep under the sea floor, and under such high pressure and temperature, that conventional equipment would melt or be crushed by the conditions.

One BP field in the Gulf of Mexico, called Tiber, makes the Macondo field that the Deepwater Horizon rig was probing look like simple puddle of oil. It is thought to hold 20 times the amount of oil as Macondo. At 35,000 feet (10,600 meters) below the sea floor — 6.6 miles (10.6 kilometers) into the earth's crust — it is about twice as deep.

There's an extraordinary amount of oil in similar discoveries around the world, several of which are controlled by BP. But BP first must figure out how to get it. New equipment, including blowout preventers far stronger than the one that failed on the Deepwater Horizon, must be developed. Then BP must convince regulators it can tap this oil safely.

Another disaster could threaten BP's existence, but success could restore the company's fortunes — and perhaps its reputation. "There's 10 to 20 billion barrels of oil just for BP in this," says Kevin Kennedy, who runs BP's global technology operations. At today's prices, that's worth up to \$2 trillion.

After the Deepwater Horizon exploded, killing 11 workers, and spewing between 103 million and 176 million gallons of oil into the Gulf, questions were raised by regulators, engineers, environmentalists and others over whether BP — or any oil company — could safely produce oil from formations under thousands of feet of water and tens of thousands of feet of rock. Three years later, there are a record 39 rigs drilling



In this Friday, July 16, 2010, file photo, drilling rigs and workboats operate at the site of the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico.

Associated Press

in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, according to IHS Petrodata, as drillers probe enormous troves of oil in untapped formations — some of which are under especially high temperature and pressure.

And it is BP, of all companies, that is pioneering the push to exploit the most difficult of them.

Environmentalists are alarmed. "You hope (BP) has learned their lesson, but the nature of the business is that there are going to be spills, there is human error," says Athan Manuel, director of the Sierra Club's lands protection program. "These high pressure wells could cause another environmental disaster in the Gulf."

For BP, drilling deeper is a bold and crucial step. CEO Bob Dudley told colleagues at an industry conference last year that management "thought very carefully before recommitting the company to the deep water following the 2010 accident." The spill has cost BP \$42.5 billion, and legal battles are ongoing.

BP decided to go forward in a major way. Dudley may not have had much choice — BP needs the oil. Its production is down 21 percent since the oil spill



In this Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2013, photo, employees at FMC Technology work to develop and build equipment drilling equipment that can withstand up to 20,000 pounds per square inch and 350 degrees Fahrenheit at their office compound in Houston.

Associated Press

and its share price is 22 percent lower. Big oil companies need to find giant fields to generate enough oil to replace the steady natural declines of existing fields. These big fields are now only found in remote or difficult locations.

Despite the Deepwater Horizon accident and BP's errors that contributed to it, BP remains one of the few companies with the technical expertise and financial resources to discover and produce oil at these depths. It is the biggest producer, investor and leaseholder in the Gulf of Mexico, which even with the onshore oil boom in states such as Texas and

North Dakota still accounts for 17 percent of domestic production. BP recently added two more rigs in the Gulf, bringing its total to nine, more than it has ever had there.

The company's new prospects are among the largest in the Gulf in a part of an emerging geologic formation called the Lower Tertiary. These layers of rock are far older, and deeper under the sea floor, than the Miocene formation responsible for most of the Gulf of Mexico's current oil production.

The Lower Tertiary, once thought to have no oil and gas, is also being explored by Exxon, Chevron, Shell

and others. Some of the shallower locations are already producing oil, and over the next 15 years it is expected to become the dominant source of the Gulf's oil, according to the consulting firm Wood Mackenzie. In all, the formation is thought to hold 15 billion barrels, worth \$1.5 trillion.

Current industry equipment, rated to 15,000 pounds per square inch (1,020 atmospheres) and 250 degrees Fahrenheit (121 degrees Celsius), can't produce the oil in BP's Lower Tertiary fields, including Tiber and Kaskida. The rubber now used to seal valves and pipes would melt at more extreme temperatures. Some equipment, such as the blowout preventer, which failed in the Deepwater Horizon accident, is too small to withstand higher pressures. So BP launched a program it calls "Project 20K" to develop equipment with suppliers that can withstand up to 20,000 pounds per square inch and 350 degrees Fahrenheit (176 degrees Celsius). That's hot enough to bake a chicken, and the equivalent of having the weight of a school bus bearing down on every square inch of equipment.

Some experts wonder if BP, or the rest of the industry, is up to the task.

Robert Bea, professor emeritus of engineering at the University of California and an expert on offshore technology who studied the Macondo blowout, says more than just better equipment must be developed. The especially hard part, he says, is developing a management system that can properly direct and oversee such complex projects. Bea, who has testified for plaintiffs suing BP over the spill, says it takes "decades of concerted work" to do so safely.

"BP's basic thinking has not fundamentally changed," he says. "They want to develop those resources so badly, and they want to develop them so quickly, their drive for production

Mandela film shifts from tribute to eulogy

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With the passing of Nelson Mandela, the sweeping biopic "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" transforms in the midst of its theatrical release from a living tribute to a big-screen eulogy. The South African revolutionary and former president, who died Thursday at the age of 95, has long been a compelling figure for movies — a hero of uncommon dignity whose dramatic story and titanic accomplishments insured his tale would be told often in film.

But arguably the fullest movie portrait of Mandela's life — a film made with his permission and his family's support — was released just six days before his death.

News of Mandela's death broke as "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" played during its London premiere, where Mandela's daughters Zindzi and Zenani were in attendance. A spokesman with the film said the daughters requested that the film continue, though they immediately left the theater. Producer Anant Singh, who has spent more than a decade trying to get the film made, called for a moment of silence at the film's end.

"Mandela: Long Walk to

Freedom" opened in a limited release of four theaters in the U.S. last Friday. When the film opens wide on Christmas, it's sure to draw larger crowds moved to remember Mandela. The Weinstein Co.'s challenge is to not appear to be capitalizing on Mandela's passing, but celebrating his life.

A publicist for the Weinstein Co. said the film's release schedule won't be changed, but declined to say if the movie's marketing would be altered.

Harvey Weinstein, the co-chairman of the Weinstein Co., is renowned for his promotional gusto. He's pushing the film for awards recognition, which hasn't yet developed in early prizes. But sentiment could flow toward "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" following Mandela's death as voting for the Oscars, Golden Globes and other awards kicks in over the next two months.

"One of the privileges of making movies is having the opportunity to immortalize those who have made a profound impact on humanity," Weinstein said in a statement. "We count ourselves unspeakably fortunate to have been immersed in Nelson Mandela's story and legacy. It's been an honor to have been granted such



This photo released by The Weinstein Company shows, standing from left, Idris Elba, as Nelson Mandela, Tony Kgoroge as Walter Sisulu, Riaad Moosa, as Ahmed Kathrada, and Thapelo Mokona as Elias Motsoaledi, in a scene from the film, "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom."

Associated Press

proximity to a man who will go down as one of history's greatest freedom fighters and advocates for justice."

Mandela has been played by Danny Glover in the 1987 TV film "Mandela" (it aired while Mandela was still imprisoned), Sidney Poitier in the 1997 TV film "Mandela and De Klerk," Dennis Haysbert in 2007's "Goodbye Bafana," Morgan Freeman in 2009's

"Invictus" and Terrence Howard in the recently released "Winnie Mandela." Idris Elba stars as Mandela in British director Justin Chadwick's "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," a traditional biopic that emphasizes a young, forceful Mandela. On first seeing Elba, whose frame is considerably larger than Mandela's, in a scene from the film, Singh has said Mandela remarked, "Is that me?"

With Mandela ailing in recent years, Elba was unable to meet with him. "I only feel honored to be associated with him," the actor said in a statement. The film has screened for dignitaries around the world, including for President Barack Obama in the White House. It's already a hit in South Africa, where it set a box-office debut record, earning \$427,000 in its opening week. □

Yo, Adrian! Rocky devotees set to make tribute run

DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Yo, Adrian, Rocky devotees are gonna run now, a grueling tribute to their mythical champ.

Nearly 35 years after Rocky Balboa returned for his first sequel, Philadelphia's favorite adopted son has inspired city runners to go to the distance.

Rocky's faithful followers are set to run a 50K that will end, of course, triumphantly atop the art mu-

seum steps.

The fictitious fighter left as a big cultural imprint on Philadelphia as any American founding father, and hundreds of runners are expected to follow in his championship footsteps, truly, through the streets, steps and past the statue he showcased to the world through six movies.

Philadelphia's debut Rocky Run kicks off Saturday just around the corner from the house where Balboa lived in "Rocky II." □



In this film publicity image provided by 20th Century Fox, James McAvoy portrays Charles Xavier in a scene from "X-Men: First Class." The "X-Men" franchise will get another boost in 2016 with the release of "X-Men: Apocalypse."

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The "X-Men" franchise will get another boost in 2016 with the release of "X-Men: Apocalypse."

Director and producer Bryan Singer hinted at the next installment via Twitter on Thursday when he wrote, "#Xmen #Apoca-

lypse 2016!"

Fox confirmed the film will open in wide release on May 27, 2016.

Apocalypse is a major villain from the "X-Men" comics who appeared in the 1980s.

Singer has worked on all the Marvel mutant-focused films since the first "X-Men" was released in 2000.

He's also directing the next movie in the franchise, "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

It's scheduled for a May 23, 2014, release. The film will star Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Halle Berry, Jennifer Lawrence, Anna Paquin, James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Shawn Ashmore and Nicholas Hoult. □

Going beyond Balto, film shows life-saving dog run

RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— A deadly epidemic had gripped a gold rush town in the impenetrable U.S. territory of Alaska nearly 90 years ago, transfixing the nation.

A cure existed, but there was no way to deliver it. There were no roads available, and air supply drops weren't an option.

The only solution was a nearly 700-mile (1,125-kilometer) sled dog relay in 1925 to deliver a life-saving serum to those threatened by a diphtheria outbreak in the rugged coastal town of Nome.

A new film, "Icebound," documents the race against death and will open the Anchorage International Film Festival this week.

The 95-minute picture is narrated by Patrick Stewart, and a national theatrical release is set for next spring.

Eight years in the making, the film details the rescue efforts, using black-and-white photographs and film footage, interviews with survivors and descendants, modern mushers and historians, and long-time Alaska journalists.

"It's a small moment in history for which you can extrapolate all these larger truths about American culture," said filmmaker Dan-



In this 1925 file photo, Gunnar Kaasen poses with his original dog team which he drove through a blinding blizzard to deliver life-saving serum Nome, Alaska.

Associated Press

iel Anker.

The documentary revives a story that captured America's imagination from radio and newspaper reports — including dispatches from The Associated Press — telling of the drama playing out in the frozen north, where temperatures plunged to 50 below (minus 45 Celsius) that long-ago January.

The first of two supply runs took five days, and the saga quickly reached mythic proportions. Months

afterward, a bronze statue of the sled dog Balto went up in New York's Central Park.

"One of the things that's really interesting about this story has to do with the technology and what the technology could and couldn't do," said David Weinstein, senior program officer for the National Endowment for the Humanities. "Ultimately, the only way for this to work was through dogs, through an older technology."

Weinstein's agency provided \$695,000 to fund the \$1 million project.

Diphtheria is an airborne disease that attacks the upper respiratory system and has been largely eradicated.

But in Nome, Alaska, in 1925, it was a deadly threat. The official medical record counted five deaths and 29 stricken residents. However, many believe that deaths among Alaska Natives were never accurately tracked during a time

when they were segregated from Nome's white residents.

Balto, namesake star of a 1995 animated film about the outbreak, became famous out of scores of other dogs because he was a lead canine on the last leg of the first relay.

The dog was an unlikely hero. Balto was a freight dog owned by a champion musher of the time, Leonhard Seppala, a Norwegian who lived in Nome. But he never made Seppala's competitive teams of Siberian huskies because he was too slow.

Gunnar Kaasen, another Norwegian and Seppala's assistant, drove the final leg of the first supply run. Kaasen was supposed to hand off the last dash to sprint champion Ed Rohn for the final stretch to Nome. But Kaasen led the team all the way in. He said later that no lights were on at a cabin where Rohn was waiting, and he didn't want to waste time. Historians say Balto and Kaasen received a lion's share of the fame that should have gone to Seppala and his 12-year-old lead dog Togo.

Also, lost in the hoopla were other dogs and mushers — many Alaska Natives among them — who took part in the relay. They included Athabaskan and Inupiat Eskimos. □



In this undated photo provided by Christie's Auction House, the Fender Stratocaster a young Bob Dylan played at the historic 1965 Newport Folk Festival is shown.

Associated Press

Dylan's electric guitar sells for nearly \$1M

ULA ILNYTZKY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Like Elvis' no-hips-allowed appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," or the Beatles' arrival in America, or Woodstock, it is considered one of the milestone moments in rock history: Bob Dylan going electric at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival.

On Friday, the Fender Stratocaster that Dylan plugged in at the festival sold for nearly \$1 million — the highest price ever paid for a guitar at auction. A buyer identified only as a private individual agreed

to pay \$965,000 at Christie's, including the auction house's fees, for the sunburst-finish electric guitar. Dylan's legendary performance at the festival in Rhode Island 48 years ago marked his rupture with the folk movement's old guard and solidified his shift away from acoustic music, like "Blowin' in the Wind," toward amplified rock, such as "Like a Rolling Stone."

The raucous, three-song electric set was booed by some in the crowd, and folk purists saw Dylan as a traitor and a sellout. But "his going electric

changed the structure of folk music," said Newport Folk Festival founder George Wein, 88. "The minute Dylan went electric, all these young people said, 'Bobby's going electric. We're going electric, too.'" Christie's had expected the guitar, which was sold with its original black leather strap and Fender hard-shell case, to go for far less, \$300,000 to \$500,000.

The previous record for a guitar sold at auction was held by Eric Clapton's Fender, nicknamed "Blackie," which sold at Christie's for \$959,500 in 2004.

Dylan's guitar had been in the possession of a New Jersey family for nearly 50 years after the singer left it on a private plane.

The pilot's daughter, Dawn Peterson of Morris County, N.J., said her father asked Dylan's management what to do with the instrument, and nobody ever got back to him.

Last year, she took it to the PBS show "History Detectives" to have it authenticated, and rock-memorabilia experts matched its wood grain to close-up color photos of Dylan's instrument at the 1965 festival. □

The Asbestos Scam



JOE NOCERA

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In May, Carolyn McCarthy, a nine-term congresswoman from Long Island, was diagnosed with lung cancer. Her treatment began almost immediately, causing her to take a lengthy absence from her office while she fought the disease. At the same time, McCarthy, 69, ended a pack-a-day cigarette habit that she'd had for most of her life, presumably because she understood the link between cigarette-smoking and lung cancer. Scientists estimate that smoking plays a role in 90 percent of lung cancer deaths. "Since my diagnosis with lung cancer," she wrote in a recent legal filing, "I have had mental and emotional distress and inconvenience. I am fearful of death." She added, "My asbestos-related condition has disrupted my life, limiting me in my everyday activities and interfering with living a normal life."

Asbestos-related?

Yes, that's right. It's hard these days for smokers to sue tobacco companies because everyone knows the dangers of cigarettes. Instead, McCarthy has become part of a growing trend: lung cancer victims who are suing companies that once used asbestos. With asbestos litigation well into its fourth decade - the longest-running mass tort in U.S. history - you'd think the plaintiffs bar would have run out of asbestos companies to sue. After all, asbestos lawsuits have bankrupted more than 100 companies. Yet McCarthy has found more than 70 additional companies to sue, including General Electric and Pfizer. Asbestos litigation, says Lester Brickman, a professor at Yeshiva University and perhaps the most vocal critic of asbestos lawsuits, "is a constant search for viable defendants." Because asbestos was once such a ubiquitous product, there is always somebody else to sue.

Let me stipulate right here that exposure to asbestos can be deadly. The worst illness it causes is mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer that essentially suffocates its victims to death. If it were only the real victims of asbestos-related diseases who sued, there would be no issue. That's how the tort system is supposed to work. But, over the years, plaintiffs lawyers have brought tens of thousands of bogus cases. They took doc-

tors on their payroll to industrial sites, where all the employees would be screened for signs of an asbestos-related disease. They found some real cases, of course - along with many that could never have stood up in court. Nonetheless, by bundling real cases with phony ones - and filing giant lawsuits - they took down one company after another.

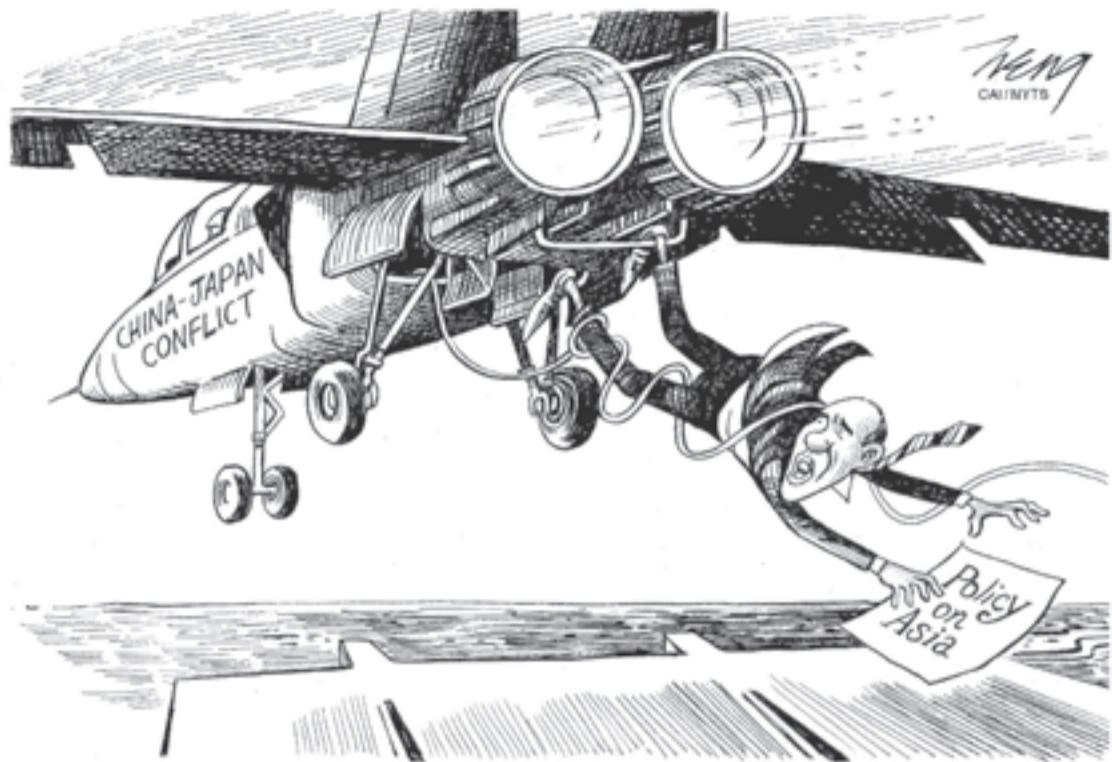
The bankrupt company would then put money aside in a trust that would parcel out payments to asbestos victims. The trusts have billions of dollars to disburse and are largely controlled by the plaintiffs' lawyers. It is a compensation system that runs alongside the tort system. Eventually, the judiciary got tired of dealing with all the "nonmalignant" cases, as they are called, relegating them to the trusts. At that point, the lawyers mainly handled mesothelioma cases, of which there were some 2,500 a year, and which could generate large payments - usually between \$500,000 to \$5 million.

But, soon enough, the asbestos lawyers came up with a new tactic: finding lung cancer victims who had some exposure to asbestos. All of a sudden, lung cancer cases exploded in volume. "There is nothing new in the science to suggest an upsurge in cases," says Peter Kelso, an asbestos expert with Bates White Economic Consulting. "It is just basically due to economic incentives."

That is, by bundling lung cancer cases with other cases, the plaintiffs' lawyers could bring a new set of companies to heel. For many companies, it is cheaper to settle than fight. Which brings us back to McCarthy. Her claim for "asbestos exposure" is that when she was young, her father and her brother worked as boilermakers, and she came into contact with asbestos dust because they all lived under the same roof. Plus, she says in her legal filing, she "visited and picked up my father and brother at the various work sites, including Navy Yards, Bridges, Hospitals, Schools, Powerhouses, and other sites where I breathed the asbestos dust."

Her lawyer at Weitz & Luxenberg - which has feasted for decades on asbestos lawsuits - told The New York Post that "it has been conclusively proven that cigarette smoking and asbestos exposure act synergistically to cause lung cancer."

Actually, it hasn't been: There are plenty of studies saying there is no synergy at all. At best, the science is muddled. Not that that matters. No doubt McCarthy's lawsuit will be bundled by her law firm with other cases to force a company that had nothing to do with her disease to pay up. I hope McCarthy wins her battle with lung cancer. It is an awful disease. But the right thing for her to do is drop this lawsuit. All it has really accomplished is showing how asbestos litigation is a giant scam. □



Bibi And Barack, The Sequel



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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Could Bibi Netanyahu and Barack Obama share the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize?

The thought sounds ludicrous on its face, I know. The two do not like each other and have radically different worldviews. But as much as they keep trying to get away from each other, the cunning of history keeps throwing them back together, intertwining their fates. That will be particularly true in the next six months when the U.S.-led negotiations to defuse Iran's nuclear bomb-making capabilities and the U.S.-led negotiations to reach a final peace between Israelis and Palestinians both come to a head at the same time. If these two leaders were to approach these two negotiations with a reasonably shared vision (and push each other), they could play a huge role in remaking the Middle East for the better, and - with John Kerry - deserve the Nobel Prize, an Emmy, an Oscar and the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

Let's start with the Iran talks. After his initial and, I believe, wrongheaded outburst against the U.S.-led deal to freeze and modestly roll back Iran's nuclear program in return for some limited sanctions relief, Netanyahu has quieted down a bit and has set up a team to work with the U.S. on the precise terms for a final deal with Iran. I hope that Bibi doesn't get too quiet, though. While I think the interim deal is a sound basis for negotiating a true end to Iran's nuclear bomb-making capabilities, the chances of getting that true end are improved if Bibi is

occasionally Bibi and serves as our loaded pistol on the negotiating table.

When negotiating in a merciless, hard-bitten region like the Middle East, it is vital to never let the other side think they can "outcrazy" you. The Jews and the Kurds are among the few minorities that have managed to carve out autonomous spaces in the Arab-Muslim world because, at the end of the day, they would never let any of their foes outcrazy them; they did whatever they had to in order to survive, and sometimes it was really ugly, but they survived to tell the tale. Anyone who has seen the handy work of Iran and Hezbollah firsthand - the U.S. Embassy and Marine bombings in Beirut, the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in Lebanon, the bombing at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, and the bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires - knows that the Iranians will go all the way. Never negotiate with Iran without some leverage and some crazy on your side. Iran's leaders are tough and cruel. They did not rise to the top through the Iowa caucuses. While you need some Obama "cool" to finalize a deal with Iran, to see the potential for something new and to seize it, you also need some Bibi crazy - some of his Dr. Strangelove stuff and the occasional missile test. The dark core of this Iranian regime has not gone away. It's just out of sight, and it does

need to believe that all options really are on the table for negotiations to succeed. So let Bibi be Bibi (up to the point where a good deal becomes possible) and Barack be Barack, and we have the best chance of getting a decent outcome. Had Bibi not been Bibi, we never would have gotten Iran to the negotiating table, but without Barack being Barack, we'll never get a deal.

Just the opposite is true on the Israeli-Palestinian front. Had Kerry not doggedly pushed Bibi and Palestinian President Mah-

moud Abbas to the negotiating table, Bibi would not have gone there on his own. As Stanley Fischer, the widely respected former Bank of Israel governor, told a New York University forum on Tuesday: "The approach that we have to be strong, because if we're not strong we will be defeated, is absolutely correct but it is not the only the part of national strategy. The other part is the need to look for peace, and that part is not happening to the extent that it should," the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported.

I believe Europeans, in particular, would be more sympathetic to a harder-line Israeli position on Iran if they saw Israel making progress with the Palestinians, and if some of them did not suspect that Bibi wants to defuse the Iranian threat to make the world safe for a permanent Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Moreover, if Israel made progress with the Palestinians, it could translate the coincidence of interests it now has with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arabs - which is based purely on their having a common enemy, Iran - into a real reconciliation, with trade and open relations. On the Iran front, Netanyahu's job is to make himself as annoying as possible to Obama to ensure that sanctions are only fully removed in return for a verifiable end to Iran's nuclear bomb-making capabilities. On the Israeli-Palestinian front, Obama's job is to make himself as annoying as possible to Netanyahu. Each has to press the other for us to get the best deals on both fronts.

This is a rare plastic moment in the Middle East where a lot of things are in flux. I have no illusions that all the problems can be tied up with a nice bow. But with a little imagination and the right mix of toughness and openness on Iran and the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the Israeli prime minister and American president could turn their bitter-lemon relationship into lemonade. □

Food Pantry Scrambles To Meet Growing Demand

WINNIE HU

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NEW YORK - The food line started before light outside the stone church with red doors in the South Bronx on a recent Friday. There were grim-faced old men next to weary mothers with children and Spanish-speaking immigrants with handcarts and milk crates.

Inside, dozens of volunteers waited, too. The fruit and vegetable deliveries were late; only two trucks had unloaded their bounty by noon.

"Normally, we get up to seven trucks," said the Rev. Danilo Lachapel, 58, a tall man in a black fedora. "Something's happened. Now many people will go home without food."

As food pantries struggle to meet increasing demand, the Bronx Spanish Evangelical Church is feeding more people than ever in one of the nation's poorest communities. Its food pantry, Give Them to Eat, gave out the equivalent of more than 29,000 meals in November, up from 10,000 in March.

Give Them to Eat has scrambled to secure additional food donations, recruit more volunteers and expand its operation from one day a week to as many as four or five. It has also adopted new procedures to try to shorten waiting times, including instituting a double line in the church parking lot to hand out fresh fruits and vegetables twice as fast.

"Give Them to Eat is a beacon in their neighborhood," said Jennifer McLean, a vice president at City Harvest, a nonprofit organization that delivered more than 2.2 million pounds of food to Give Them to Eat in fiscal 2013. "People know they can come there and get the food they need to feed themselves and their families."

Give Them to Eat is not a typical pantry. It is a big operation with a small-town civility, the kind of place where people in the food line are offered cups of steaming coffee and invited inside the church

sanctuary to escape the cold. (They leave their carts parked outside to hold their places.) Many of the pantry workers - all volunteers - started out in the food line themselves. Now

income of \$579 in disability benefits and \$161 in food stamps but too often came away from other places feeling frustrated.

"They treat you like a herd of cattle," she said. "You

in from City Harvest, Food Bank for New York City, and even the online grocer FreshDirect. The church has worked with City Harvest to teach free nutrition classes that, among other

"They hide in the bathroom with their carts," Taylor said. "I have to go get them." The line stopped, and then started again as more trucks finally arrived. Pantry workers rushed over to un-



Food is handed out at Give Them to Eat, the Bronx Spanish Evangelical Church's food pantry, in New York. The church, which gave out the equivalent of more than 29,000 meals in November, is feeding more people than ever in one of the nation's poorest communities.

(Angel Franco/The New York Times)

they work eight-hour shifts or longer, without complaint.

The pantry runs on the honor system. Unlike other pantries, it does not ask for proof of residency or income before dispensing a bag of rice. It does not limit how often people can come for food, either. One group of women was spotted going through the pantry twice that Friday; pantry workers said they were allowed to do that as long as they waited in line. "They're generous and they're nice," said Adja Rodgers, 57, who walked 30 blocks from her home to arrive by 7:30 a.m., even though there are closer pantries. "They don't try to hoard the food for themselves. Some places, they do, but not here. They put it all out and everybody takes what they want. I pray to God they keep this place open."

Rodgers, a former park maintenance worker, said she relied on pantries to supplement her monthly

stand in line and you get up there, and they're like, 'Hurry up.'"

Lachapel, who was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Puerto Rico, announced in Spanish that he was opening the pantry even though most of the fresh fruits and vegetables had still not arrived. The pantry workers were told to give out what they had. By pantry standards, the rations could be unusually large for those who needed it: a case of soy milk, an industrial-size bag of potatoes, a cabbage as big as a basketball. Pantry workers said they served many large families - some with a dozen members or more - that were growing even larger as adult children, grandparents and other relatives lost jobs and moved in.

There were apples, cans of beef stew, devil's food cake mix. Not long ago, fresh salmon, mussels and calamari, too. The selections change daily, depending on what comes

things, show the recipients how to use everything.

"In a primarily Hispanic community, no one knows how to fix kale, collard greens or persimmons," said Maria Vives, 54, a pantry worker.

Sometimes, there are treats but not enough for everyone. So Luisa Arias 31, an unemployed mother of two from the Dominican Republic, was put in charge of Kit Kats, Heath Bars, Twizzlers and chocolate-covered pretzels.

"Papi, it's only for the kids," she firmly told a man who held out his hand.

"I'm a big kid," he responded. As on any line, there are those who do not want to wait. Kenneth Taylor, 57, whose job is to watch the line, said people hovered around the entrance and tried to rush in when the pantry opened. Others come limping up with stories about bad knees or backs. A few have even tried to sneak into the pantry by asking to use the church's bathroom.

load the food. One truck came bearing onions, to the delight of several women in line who had just been asking how they were going to cook without them.

Rodgers, leaning on her handcart, now filled with whole wheat pasta and other staples, spied a pile of salt-and-vinegar potato chips.

"Can I get a bag of chips?" she asked. "I love potato chips. This makes it worthwhile right here. These are my chips."

As the line wound down around 3 p.m., Lachapel walked through the parking lot to check on everyone. He said his work at the pantry was a way to pay back the church and the community.

He was at a low point in his own life in 1989, he said, when he passed by the church and looked up at the sky to pray for help. He looked down to find a \$5 bill in the street. He went into the church that day, and on many days since. □